

THE PONTIFICAL SACRED AND DIVINE LITURGY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

At the designated time the bishop comes to the church with the priest concelebrants, deacons and servers. When the bishop approaches the entrance of the church, the two deacons meet him with censer. The protodeacon says:

May the Lord bless you from Zion, and may you know Jerusalem's blessings all the days of your life.

Choir: Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and for ever (*thrice*).

All clergy take their proper places around the bishop's chair.

One of the priests celebrates proskomedia, and places the particles for Theotokos and all the saints. Then, he covers the holy diskos and the holy chalice with the aer, saying nothing. When the Cherubicon is being sung, the bishop himself concludes the proskomedia before the entrance.

The subdeacons bring the trikirion and dikirion to the bishop. The protodeacon says:

Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven, always, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The bishop blesses with the trikirion and dikirion in the form of a cross, to the east, the west, the south and the north, saying:

Lord, O Lord, look down from heaven! See and visit this vineyard and bring it to perfection, for your right hand has planted it. May your hand be upon the sons of man whom You affirmed for yourself.

Choir: Lord, grant many years! (*thrice*).

The bishop gives back the trikirion and dikirion to the subdeacons. The Divine Liturgy begins with a prayer:

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us;

cleanse us of all that defiles us, and O Good One, save our souls.

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

Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

After this the protodeacon, together with other deacons, comes to the bishop, and holding their oraria with three fingers of their right hand, incline their heads and say:

Master, it is time to act for the Lord. Give the blessing.

The bishop, blessing them in the form of a cross, says:

Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

Protodeacon:

Pray for us, Master.

Bishop:

May the Lord God make straight your steps.

Protodeacon:

Remember us, O holy Master.

The bishop blesses the head of the deacon, saying:

May the Lord God remember you in His kingdom, always, now and for ever and ever.

Deacons: Amen.

The deacons kiss the bishop's right hand, bow and leave. The protopresbyter, from where he stands, bows to the bishop, goes to the sanctuary through the southern door, and charges the deacon to open the holy doors. The protodeacon goes to the holy doors and begins in a loud voice:

Master, give the blessing.

The protopresbyter takes the Gospel Book with both hands and, lifting it a little, makes the sign of the cross, saying:

Blessed be the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The bishop is seated.

Protodeacon:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For our nation under God, for our government, and for all in the military, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this city (*or* For this village *or* For this holy monastery), for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The bishop says in a low voice the Prayer of the First Antiphon:

Lord, our God, Whose power is beyond comparison, Whose glory is beyond comprehension, Whose mercy is beyond measure, and Whose love for humankind is beyond all telling, in the kindness of Your heart, O Master, look upon us and upon this holy church, and bestow on us and on those praying with us, the riches of Your mercy and compassion,

And then the protopresbyter at the altar exclaims:

for all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Then he turns to the bishop and bows.

The choir sings the first antiphon. Bishop stands for Only begotten....

The protodeacon bows to the bishop, goes from his place to stand before the icon of the Savior:

After the antiphon, another deacon goes to the usual place, bows and says:

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The priest bows to the bishop and goes to the holy altar through the southern door and says in a low voice the Prayer of the Third Antiphon.

You have given us the grace to pray together in harmony and have promised to grant the requests of two or three who join their voices in Your name. Fulfill now for us, Your servants, these petitions for our benefit. Grant us in this present life the knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come, bestow eternal life,

Exclamation:

for You are a good and loving God, and in return we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

When the choir sings the Third Antiphon or, if it is Sunday, the Beatitudes, the protodeacon and the deacons approach and make a bow. Likewise the protopresbyters from both the right side and the left side bow to the bishop and enter the sanctuary, some through the southern door and the others through the northern door. When the choir sings Glory be: the first priest gives the Gospel Book to the protodeacon. They proceed from the sanctuary: the readers with candles, the subdeacons with the trikirion and dikirion, the deacons with censers, protodeacon with the Gospel Book, followed by concelebrating priests, who when stand flanking the bishop's throne.

The protodeacon says: Let us pray to the Lord. *The bishop says in a low voice the Prayer of Entrance:*

Lord God our Master, Who established in heaven the ranks and armies of angels and archangels for the service of Your glory, grant that as we make our entrance, the holy angels may enter too, serving with us and joining in the praise of Your goodness. For all glory, honor and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

At the conclusion of this prayer, the protodeacon points to the east with the orarion he is holding with three fingers of his right hand, and says to the bishop:

Master, bless the holy entrance.

The bishop, blessing, says:

Blessed be the entrance of Your saints, always, now and for ever and ever.

The protodeacon presents the Gospel Book to the bishop to kiss, then kisses the right hand of the bishop. The protodeacon then walks to the center, stands in front of the bishop, raises his hands slightly to display the Gospel Book, and says aloud:

Wisdom! Stand aright!

Choir: Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

The bishop blesses in the form of a cross, to the east, the west, the south and the north, saying:

O Christ, the true Light, You enlighten and sanctify everyone who comes into the world.

Let the light of Your countenance shine upon us, that walking in it, we may see the light of Your unapproachable glory.

Direct our steps in the observance of Your commandments.

Through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, O Christ our God, save us.

After each blessing the choir sings: Lord, grant many years!

While the bishop sings, Direct our steps, the protodeacon puts the Gospel Book on the altar and brings the censer to the bishop. Then, the bishop takes the censer and gives the trikirion to the protodeacon. The deacon leads the bishop to the sanctuary, where he begins to incense in the customary manner.

The troparia are sung now.

The bishop says the Prayer of the Thrice-Holy Hymn:

Holy God, You dwell in the holies. With three-fold cries of holy the seraphim acclaim You, the cherubim glorify You, and all the heavenly powers worship You. From nothingness You brought all things into being. You created man in Your own image and likeness and adorned him with all Your graces. You give wisdom and understanding to all who ask. You do not turn Your face from the sinner but offer repentance as a way for salvation. You have made us, Your humble and undeserving servants, worthy to stand before the glory of Your holy altar at this very time, and bring You due worship and praise. Accept from the lips of us sinners the Thrice-Holy Hymn and visit us in Your kindness, O Master. Forgive us all our offenses, voluntary and involuntary. Sanctify our souls and bodies, and grant that we, in holiness, may serve You all the days of our life, through the intercession of the Holy Mother of God and of all the saints, who throughout the ages have found favor with You.

When the choir sings the last troparion, the protodeacon, bowing his head, says to the bishop:

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

The bishop blesses the Gospel Book with the trikirion and dikirion, saying:

Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the one Godhead and one Being in three distinct Persons.

And continues:

For You, our God, are holy, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever

Deacon: and ever.

Choir: Amen.

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

The bishop sings once:

Αγιος ο Θεος, αγιος ισχυρος, αγιος αθανατος, ελεησον ημας.

The protodeacon intones:

Give glory to Christ our God.

Choir: Glory be: Now and for ever:

And again: Holy God:

And when All you who have been baptized into Christ: is being sung:

Οσοι εις Χριστον εβαπτισθητε, Χριστον ενεδυσασθε, αλληλουια.

As the Thrice-Holy hymn is being sung, the bishop, priests and deacons join in the recitation and together make three bows before the holy altar.

The protodeacon then says to the bishop:

Master, proceed.

They depart for the place on high. As the bishop proceeds, he says:

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

Protodeacon:

Master, bless the chair on high.

Bishop:

Blessed are You on the throne of glory of Your kingdom, Who sit upon the cherubim, always, now and for ever and ever.

At the conclusion of the Thrice-Holy Hymn, the protodeacon comes to the holy doors and says:

Let us be attentive!

Bishop exclaims:

Peace be with all.

Protodeacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

The choir sings the prokimenon, a versicle from the Psalm of David.

Protodeacon: Wisdom!

Reader: (reads the Epistle title)

Protodeacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: (reads the Epistle)

The Epistle having been read, the bishop says:

Peace be with you.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

As the Alleluia is being sung, the protodeacon takes the censer and the incense, comes to the bishop, and having received a blessing from him, incenses around the holy table, and the entire sanctuary, the bishop and priests.

The bishop says this prayer before the Gospel:

Make the pure light of Your Divine knowledge shine in our hearts, O loving Master. Open the eyes of our minds that we may understand the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us the fear of Your blessed commandments that we may subdue all carnal desires and follow a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all that pleases You. For You, O Christ our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

After the prayer, the bishop blesses the priests with his hand, saying:

Bless these concelebrating priests, O Lord our God, and deem them worthy to serve You in holiness and justice, always, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The protodeacon returns the censer to its customary place, comes to the bishop with the Gospel Book and, with bowed head, says:

Master, bless the reader of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist *N*.

The bishop signing him, says:

May God, through the intercession of the holy, glorious, all-praiseworthy apostle and evangelist *N*, grant that you proclaim the Good News with great power for the fulfillment of the Gospel of His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Protodeacon: Amen.

And he continues immediately:

Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Bishop:

Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Protodeacon:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to *N*.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

After the Gospel has been read, the choir sings: Glory be to You....

The bishop receives the trikirion and dikirion and blesses the people.

Choir: Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτι, δεσποτα.

The bishop says to the protodeacon:

Peace be with you, proclaimer of the Good News.

The deacon, standing in the usual place begins:

Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

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

The Prayer of Fervent Supplication

Lord, our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants. Take pity on us in the greatness of Your compassion. Let Your loving kindness descend upon us and upon all Your people who await Your abundant mercy,

We also pray for the most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brethren in Christ.

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

We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all in the military.

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

We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

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

The bishop exclaims:

for You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Again and again in peace, let the faithful pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The bishop says the First Prayer of the Faithful

We thank You, O Lord God of hosts, that You have deemed us worthy to stand now at Your holy altar, falling before Your mercies for our sins and for the sins of ignorance of the people. Accept our prayers, O God, and make us worthy to offer You petitions, supplications and unbloody sacrifices for all Your people. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, enable us whom You appointed for Your ministry to call upon You always and everywhere, without condemnation and without stumbling, in the pure testimony of our conscience, so that, hearing us, You may be propitious to us in the abundance of Your goodness.

Then the Second Prayer of the Faithful

Once again and many times we fall before You and ask You, O good and loving Lord, that, having looked upon our petition, You might cleanse our souls and bodies of every defilement of flesh and spirit, and might permit us to stand guiltless and uncondemned before Your holy altar. Grant also, O God, to those praying with us growth in life, in faith, and in spiritual understanding. Grant that they who serve You with fear and love, may always partake of Your Holy Mysteries without blame and condemnation, and be made worthy of Your heavenly kingdom.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The bishop exclaims:

So that always protected by Your might, we may give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

While the Cherubicon is being sung, the deacon takes the censer, and he incenses in the customary manner, reciting Psalm 50 while doing so.

The bishop says the following prayer in a low voice:

No one who is bound to carnal desires or pleasures is worthy to approach You or to draw near to You, or to minister to You, O King of Glory. For to serve You is great and awesome, even to the heavenly powers. And yet, because of Your love for humankind — a love which cannot be expressed or measured — You became man, unchanged and unchanging. You were appointed our High Priest, and, as Master of all, handed down the priestly ministry of this liturgical and unbloody sacrifice. You alone, O Lord, our God, have dominion over heaven and earth. You are borne on the throne of the cherubim; You are Lord of the seraphim and King of Israel; You alone are holy and rest in the holies. I implore You, therefore, Who alone are good and ready to listen: look with favor upon me, Your sinful and useless servant; cleanse my heart and soul of the evil that lies on my conscience. By the power of Your Holy Spirit enable me, who am clothed with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this, Your holy table, and offer the sacrifice of Your holy and most pure Body and precious Blood. Bending my

neck, I approach and I petition You: Turn not Your face from me nor reject me from among Your children, but allow these gifts to be offered to You by me, Your sinful and unworthy servant. For it is You Who offer and You Who are offered; it is You Who receive and You Who are given, O Christ our God; and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

After the prayer, a tray and water pitcher and a towel are brought to the bishop in the front of the holy doors. The bishop washes his hands, while saying the following prayer over the water:

O Lord, our God, Who sanctified Jordan's water by Your saving manifestation, You Yourself send down now the grace of Your Holy Spirit and bless this water for the sanctification of all Your people, for You are blessed for ever. Amen.

The bishop, the priests and the deacons stand in front of the holy altar and recite the Cherubicon three times together, bowing once at each conclusion.

**Let us who mystically represent the cherubim and sing the Thrice-Holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity, now lay aside all cares of life,
that we may receive the King of all, escorted invisibly by ranks of angels. Alleluia (thrice).**

Then they proceed to the prothesis and pray in a low voice:

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

The bishop removes the mitre and concludes the proskomedia.

After the proskomedia, the deacon says to the bishop:

Master, lift it up.

Picking up the aer, the bishop places it on the deacon's left shoulder, saying:

Lift up your hands toward the holy places and bless the Lord.

The bishop takes the diskos and sets it upon the head of the protodeacon with care and reverence. The protopresbyter makes a bow, takes the holy chalice from the bishop, kisses it and the bishop's hand. The protodeacon leaves by the northern door, followed by the protopresbyter. The bishop puts his mitre on.

Protodeacon: May the Lord God remember in His Kingdom all you orthodox Christians, always, now and for ever and ever.

The bishop comes out in front of the holy doors and incenses the holy diskos three times. He then takes it from the head of the protodeacon, goes to the sanctuary and sets it on the holy altar.

Priest: May the Lord God remember in His Kingdom our God-loving Bishop *N.*, always, now and for ever and ever.

The bishop incenses the chalice and receives it from the protopresbyter and says:

May the Lord God remember in His kingdom our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*; our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*; our God-loving bishops, the priestly, diaconal and religious orders; our nation under God, our government, and all in the military; the noble and ever-to-be remembered founders and benefactors of this holy church; and all you, orthodox Christians, always, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen. *And sings:*

That we may receive the King of all, escorted invisibly by ranks of angels. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Entering through the holy doors, the bishop sets the holy chalice on the holy altar. He takes the veils from the diskos and the chalice and lays them on one side of the holy altar. Taking the aer from the deacon's arm, he incenses it and covers the holy gifts with it, saying:

The noble Joseph took down Your most pure body from the tree. He wrapped it with a clean shroud and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb.

Taking the censer from the protodeacon's hand, he incenses the holy gifts three times, saying:

Deal favorably, O Lord, with Sion in Your good pleasure and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then You shall be well pleased with a sacrifice of justice, oblations and holocausts; then they shall lay calves upon Your altar.

Having given back the censer, he bows his head and says:

Remember me, brothers and fellow ministers.

All the ministers respond:

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Bishop:

May this same Spirit act together with us all the days of our lives.

The protodeacon, together with other clergy says:

Pray for us, holy Master.

Bishop:

May the Lord guide your steps.

They continue:

Remember us, holy master.

Bishop:

May the Lord God remember you in His Kingdom always, now and for ever and ever.

Protodeacon: Amen.

The bishop blesses the people.

Bowing to the bishop, the deacon leaves through the northern door and stands in the customary place.

Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the precious gifts that have been presented, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of Presentation, after placing the holy gifts on the holy altar:

Lord, God almighty, Who alone are holy, You accept the sacrifice of praise from those who call upon You with all their hearts. Accept also the petitions of us sinners and bring them to Your holy altar. Enable us to offer You gifts and spiritual sacrifices for our sins of ignorance of the people. Make us worthy to find favor with You so that our sacrifice may be acceptable to You and so that the good Spirit of Your grace may rest upon us, upon these gifts present before us, and upon all Your people.

Bishop exclaims:

Through the mercies of Your only-begotten Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Bishop: **Peace be with all.**

Choir: And with Your spirit.

Deacon:

Let us love one another so that we may be of one mind in confessing.

Choir:

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

The bishop bows three times, saying in a low voice:

I will love You, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my stronghold and my refuge (thrice).

The bishop removes his mitre.

He kisses the holy gifts which are covered: first, over the holy diskos, then over the holy chalice, and the edge of the holy table before him. The bishop puts his mitre on. Then the concelebrants approach according to their rank, kiss the holy gifts and then the bishop in the usual manner.

The bishop says:

Christ is among us.

The one who kisses responds:

He is and will be.

The concelebrants stand according to their rank and kiss each other.

In like manner, if there are two deacons, each kisses the cross on his orarion and then the shoulders of the other, using the same greeting as do the priests. Similarly, if a deacon is alone, he bows in the place where he is standing and kisses the cross on his orarion. Then he says:

The doors, the doors! In wisdom let us be attentive.

The bishop removes his mitre. The concelebrants raise the holy aer aloft and hold it over the head of the bishop and, together with the people, they recite quietly the Symbol of Faith.

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Deacon:

Let us stand well, let us stand with fear; let us be attentive to offer in peace the holy oblation.

Choir:

The mercy of peace, the sacrifice of praise.

The bishop kisses the aer and sets it on one side. He puts on his mitre. The deacon bows, enters the sanctuary, takes the ripidion and reverently fans the holy gifts. If there is no ripidion, he does so with one of the veils.

The bishop turns to the people and blesses with the trikirion and dikirion, saying:

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

Choir: And with your spirit.

The bishop raises his hands and eyes together with his mind, and says:

Let us lift up our hearts.

Choir: We have lifted them to the Lord.

Bishop:

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Choir:

It is right and just to worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in being and undivided.

The bishop removes his mitre and prays:

It is right and just to sing of You, to bless You, to praise You, to thank You, to worship You everywhere in Your domain; for You are God — ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, always existing and ever the same — You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. You brought us from nothingness into being and, after we fell, You raised us up again. You did not cease doing everything until You led us to heaven and granted us Your future kingdom. For all this we give thanks to You, to Your only-begotten Son, and to Your Holy Spirit; for all things which we know and do not know, the benefits bestowed upon us both manifest and hidden. We

thank You also for this liturgy which You have deigned to accept from our hands, even though there stand before You thousands of archangels, and tens of thousands of angels, the cherubim and seraphim, six-winged and many-eyed, hovering aloft on the their wings,

The protodeacon picks up the holy asterisk from the holy diskos, makes a sign of the cross over the diskos with it, and kissing it, sets it aside.

Bishop exclaims:

singing, crying, exclaiming, and saying the triumphal hymn.

Choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

The deacon then comes and stands to the right, takes the ripidion in his hand and slowly, with all care and reverence, fans over the holy gifts to keep away flies and any other similar things.

The bishop prays:

With these blessed powers, O Master, Who love humankind we too cry out and say: Holy are You — truly, all holy — You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. Holy are You — truly, all holy — and magnificent is Your glory. You so loved Your world as to give Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. After He had come and fulfilled the whole divine plan for our sake, on the night He was given over — or, rather, gave Himself for the life of the world — He took bread into His holy, most pure and immaculate hands, gave thanks, blessed,

(he blesses) **sanctified and broke it; He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying:**

Since the bishop celebrates the Divine Liturgy together with the priests, they say the Lord's words together.

Exclamation:

Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you for the forgiveness of sins.

The bishop together with the deacon and all the concelebrants makes a deep bow.

Choir: Amen.

As these words are being said, the protodeacon, holding the orarion with three fingers of his right hand shows the holy diskos to the bishop. In like manner, he points to the holy chalice when the bishop says: Drink of it all of you....

The bishop in a low voice:

In like manner the cup (and again blesses) after the supper, saying:

Exclamation:

Drink of it, all of you. This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Choir: Amen.

The bishop together with the deacon and all the concelebrants makes a deep bow.

The bishop prays:

Remembering, therefore, this salutary commandment, and all the things that were done for our sake: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection on the third day, the ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand, and the second and glorious coming again:

Exclamation:

We offer to You, Yours of Your own, in behalf of all and for all.

While this is being said, the protodeacon, having crossed his hands, elevates the holy diskos and the holy chalice. He then makes a reverent bow.

Choir: We sing of You, we bless You, we thank You, O Lord, and we pray to You, our God.

The bishop prays:

Further, we offer to You this rational and unbloody worship; and we ask, we pray and we entreat You: Send down Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Gifts here present.

The protodeacon puts aside the ripidion and approaches the bishop. Then, they make a bow before the holy altar, thrice.

Then, having bowed his head, the protodeacon with his orarion points to the holy Bread and says in a low voice:

Master, bless the holy Bread.

The bishop, having bowed, makes a sign of the cross over the holy Bread, saying:

And make this bread the precious Body of Your Christ,

Protodeacon: Amen.

Again the protodeacon says:

Master, bless the holy chalice.

The bishop, blessing it, says:

and that which is in this chalice the precious Blood of Your Christ,

Protodeacon: Amen.

Again, the protodeacon, pointing to both holy Gifts, says:

Master, bless them both.

The bishop, blessing both holy Gifts, says:

changing them by Your Holy Spirit,

Protodeacon: Amen, amen, amen.

The protodeacon bows his head to the bishop and returns to his former place.

The bishop prays:

so that they may be for the communicants sobriety of soul, forgiveness of sins, fellowship of Your Holy Spirit, fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven, confidence before You and not for judgment or condemnation.

Further, we offer You this rational worship for those who have gone to their rest in faith: forefathers, fathers, patriarchs, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics, and for every righteous soul that finished this life in faith,

The bishop takes the censer and exclaims:

especially, for our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary;

And incenses the front of the holy table three times.

The protodeacon incenses the Holy table from the sides and mentions the deceased whom he wishes to commemorate.

Choir: It is truly right to bless you, O God-bearing One, as the ever-blessed and immaculate Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Or, instead of It is truly right, *the choir sings the hirmos of the feast.*

The bishop prays:

for Saint John, the prophet, forerunner and baptist; for the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; for Saint *N.* whose memorial we celebrate; and for all Your saints. Through their supplications, visit us, O God.

And remember all who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising to eternal life,

He mentions by name the deceased whom he wishes to commemorate.

and grant them rest in a place enlightened by the light of Your countenance.

Further, we pray to You: Remember, O Lord, the entire orthodox episcopate, rightly imparting the word of Your truth, the entire priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and every sacred order.

Further, we offer You this rational worship for the whole world, for the holy, catholic and apostolic Church, for those who live chaste and holy lives, for our nation under God, for our government, and for all in the military. Grant them, O Lord, a peaceful governance so that in their tranquility we may be able to lead calm and quiet lives in all piety and dignity!

After the singing of the hymn, the bishop exclaims:

Among the first, remember, O Lord, the most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; our most blessed Patriarch *N.*; our most reverend Metropolitan *N.*; our God-loving bishops. For the sake of Your holy churches grant that they may live in peace, safety, honor and health for many years, rightly imparting the word of Your truth.

The protodeacon commemorates the living.

Choir: And remember all men and all women.

The bishop prays:

Remember, O Lord, this city in which we live and every city and country and the faithful who live in them. Remember, O Lord, seafarers and travelers, the sick and the suffering, those held captive, and their salvation. Remember, O Lord, those who bear fruit doing good works in Your holy churches and remembering the poor. Send down Your mercy upon us all.

and mentions the living whom he wishes to commemorate.

The bishop exclaims:

And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and acclaim the praises of Your most honored and magnificent name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The bishop, turning to the doors and blessing, says:

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

Choir: And with your spirit.

The deacon receives the blessing from the bishop, goes to the usual place, and says:

Having remembered all the saints, again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the precious Gifts, which have been presented and consecrated, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That our loving God, Who has received them as a spiritually fragrant aroma upon His holy, heavenly and mystical altar, may send down on us in return His divine grace and the gift of

the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The bishop prays:

We place before You our whole life and hope, O loving Master; and we ask, we pray, and we entreat You: Make us worthy to partake with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries at this sacred and spiritual table: for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offences, for fellowship of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation.

Deacon:

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

That we may spend the rest of our lifetime in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

For a Christian end to our life, one that is painless, unashaming, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Having asked for unity of the faith and for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The bishop exclaims:

And make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without condemnation to dare call upon You, the heavenly God, as Father, and say:

Choir:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Bishop:

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Bishop: **Peace be with all.**

Choir: And with Your spirit.

Deacon:

Bow your heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

The bishop prays:

We give You thanks, O invisible King, for by Your infinite power You created all things and, in Your great mercy, brought all things from nothingness into being. Look down from heaven, O Master, upon those who have bowed their heads to You, for they have not bowed them down to flesh and blood, but to You, the awesome God. Therefore, O Master, make smooth the ways that lie before us all for our good and in accord with each one's personal need: sail with seafarers; travel with travelers; heal the sick, O Physician of our souls and bodies

Exclamation:

through the grace, mercies and loving-kindness of Your only-begotten Son with Whom You are blessed together with Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

The bishop prays:

Attend, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, from Your holy dwelling and from the throne of glory in Your kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are seated on high with the Father and are invisibly present here with us. Deign to give us with Your mighty hand Your most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us, to all the people.

As this prayer is being said, the protodeacon, standing before the holy doors, puts on his orarion crosswise.

Then the bishop and the protodeacon bow three times, each in his own place, saying in a low voice, thrice:

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

When the protodeacon observes the bishop extend his hand and touch the holy Bread to perform the elevation, he exclaims:

Let us be attentive!

The bishop, elevating the holy Bread, exclaims:

Holy Things for the holy!

Choir:

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

The choir sings the communion verse of the day or of the feast.

The protodeacon enters the holy sanctuary, stands to the right of the bishop, and says:

Master, break the holy Bread.

The bishop carefully and reverently breaks the holy Bread into four parts, saying:

**Broken and distributed is the Lamb of God,
broken and not divided, always eaten and never consumed,
but sanctifying those who partake.**

The protodeacon says:

Master, complete the holy chalice.

The bishop, taking the particle IC which lies above, makes a sign of the cross over the holy chalice, saying:

Fullness of the Holy Spirit,

and puts It into the holy chalice.

Deacon: Amen.

[The protodeacon takes the warm water and says to the bishop:

Master, bless the warm water.

The bishop blesses, saying:

**Blessed is the warming of Your holy Gifts
always, now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

The protodeacon pours a little warm water crosswise into the holy chalice, saying:

Warmth of faith full of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

He puts the warm water aside and stands a little apart.]

The bishop says:

Priests and deacons, approach.

Then everyone approaches, makes a reverent bow and asks forgiveness.

The bishop, holding the holy Bread, gives It to those who approach. A priest or a deacon, having kissed the bishop's hand, receives the holy Bread and says:

Master, give me the precious and holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The bishop says:

The precious and holy and most pure Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is given to the reverend priest *N.*, or deacon, *N.*, for the forgiveness of his sins and for life everlasting.

Everyone walks to the right of the holy table and stands there with bowed head, prays together with the bishop, saying:

I believe, O Lord...

Likewise, the bishop takes a particle of the holy Bread and says:

The precious and holy and most pure Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is given to me, bishop *N.*, for the forgiveness of my sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

The bishop bows his head and prays, saying:

I believe, O Lord, and confess that You are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first.

Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not tell the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief, I confess to You:

Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Master, when You come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Holy One, when You come into Your Kingdom.

May the partaking of Your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, be unto me not for judgment or condemnation but for the healing of soul and body.

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord.

Everyone partakes of the holy Bread with fear and reverence.

Likewise, the bishop bows, takes the holy chalice with the purificator in both hands and partakes of it, saying:

I, servant of God, *N.*, a bishop, partake of the precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ; for the forgiveness of my sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

He wipes his lips and the rim of the holy chalice with the purificator, and says:

This has touched my lips and shall remove my wickedness and purge my sins.

Then he invites the priests and deacons, saying:

Priests and deacons, approach again.

They approach one by one, and bow, saying:

Behold, I approach our immortal King and God.

Master, give me the precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The bishop says:

The servant of God, priest *N.*, or deacon, *N.*, partakes of the precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of his sins and for the life everlasting.

After a priest or a deacon has received, the bishop says:

This has touched your lips and shall remove your wickedness, and purge your sins.

Then the bishop breaks the two remaining particles of the holy Lamb, NI and KA, into smaller pieces. With a sponge the deacon puts them into the holy chalice together with the other particles that were transubstantiated with the Lamb.

The deacon, bowing once, reverently accepts the chalice from the bishop, comes to the doors, raises the holy chalice, and shows it to the people, saying:

Approach with the fear of God and with faith.

Choir:

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, God the Lord has appeared to us.

Those who wish to receive communion then approach. After the prayer I believe, O Lord... they approach one by one, bow with reverence and awe, with their hands on their chest crosswise, and receive the divine Gifts.

The bishop, distributing communion, says:

The servant of God, *N.*, partakes of the precious, most holy and most pure Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of his/her sins and life everlasting. Amen.

After communion the bishop enters the holy sanctuary and places the holy Gifts on the holy altar.

The bishop blesses the people with the holy chalice crosswise, exclaiming:

Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance.

Turning to the holy table, the bishop incenses the holy chalice three times and says in a low voice:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; above all the earth be Your glory.

Choir: Many years, Master.

We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.

The bishop takes the holy diskos and puts it on the head of the deacon. The deacon, having received it with reverence, proceeds to the prothesis, facing the doors but saying nothing, and leaves it there. The bishop makes a bow, takes the holy chalice, turns to the doors facing the people, and says in a low voice:

Blessed be our God

And aloud:

always, now and for ever and ever.

The priest receives the chalice from the bishop with both hands and, kissing it, goes to the holy prothesis and places the holy Gifts there. The bishop puts his mitre on.

Choir: Amen.

May our mouths be filled with Your praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Your glory. For You made us worthy to partake of Your holy, divine, immortal and life-giving Mysteries. Preserve us in Your holiness that we may meditate all the day upon Your justice. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The protodeacon loosens his orarion, leaves through the northern door, stands in the customary place, and says:

Stand aright! Having received the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, and life-giving, awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us rightly give thanks to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Having asked that this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We thank You, O Master, lover of humankind and benefactor of our souls, that even today You have made us worthy of Your heavenly and immortal Mysteries. Make straight our path. Make us all firm in fear of You. Protect our lives and secure our steps, through the prayers and supplications of the glorious Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary and of all Your saints,

The bishop folds the iletion and, holding the holy Gospel, makes the sign of the cross over it.

Exclamation:

for You are our sanctification and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

Choir: In the name of the Lord.

Protodeacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer behind the Ambo, aloud:

You bless those who bless You, O Lord, and You sanctify those who trust in You. Save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the fullness of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house and glorify them by Your divine power. Do not forsake us who hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the priests, to our nation protected by God, to our government, and to

all Your people. For all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights. And we give glory, thanks, and worship to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Blessed is the name of the Lord now and for ever (*thrice*).

During the prayer, the protodeacon stands before the icon of Christ, holding his orarion, with his head bowed until the conclusion of the prayer. After the prayer, the priest enters through the holy doors to the holy sanctuary.

The bishop says the concluding prayer:

Being the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, O Christ our God, You fully achieved the whole of the Father's plan of salvation, fill our hearts with joy and gladness, always, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The deacon enters the sanctuary through the northern door, and with reverence consumes the holy Gifts.

Bishop blesses the people:

The blessing of the Lord be upon you with His grace and love for humankind, always, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Bishop:

Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

Choir: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Master, give the blessing.

Bishop:

Christ our true God (risen from the dead) through the prayers of His immaculate Mother (*and so forth*), of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, and of Saint *N. (whose church it is)*, and of Saint *N. (whose memorial it is)*, and all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves humankind.

Choir: Amen.

The bishop, facing the people, intones the polychronion in a loud voice:

To the most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome, grant, O Lord, many years.

The choir sings: Many years.

Bishop: **To our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, grant, O Lord, many years.**

Choir: Many years.

Bishop: **To our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, grant, O Lord, many years.**

Choir: Many years.

The first priest: **To our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, grant, O Lord, many years.**

Choir: Many years.

Bishop: **To our nation under God and our civil authorities grant, O Lord, many years.**

Choir: Many years.

The second priest: **To all in the priestly and religious orders, to all our fathers and brethren, and to all orthodox Christians, grant, O Lord, many years.**

Choir: Many years.

Feastday dismissals for the Liturgy

Elevation of the Holy Cross:

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, whose universal elevation we solemnly celebrate today; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves humankind.

Nativity of Christ:

Christ our true God, Who was born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea and lay in a manger for our salvation, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople:

Circumcision:

Christ our true God, Who, in accord with the Law, accepted circumcision on the eighth day for our salvation:

Theophany:

Christ our true God, Who willed to be baptized in the Jordan by John for our salvation:

Encounter:

Christ our true God, Who willed to be carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon for our salvation:

Transfiguration:

Christ our true God, Who was transfigured in glory on Mount Tabor before His disciples and apostles for our salvation:

Saturday of the Righteous Lazarus:

Christ our true God, Who came to Bethany to raise the righteous Lazarus for our salvation:

Palm Sunday:

Christ our true God, Who willed to sit upon the foal of an ass and came to Jerusalem, and Who received praise from the Hebrew children for our salvation:

Easter Sunday and all of Bright Week:

Christ our true God, risen from the dead, trampling death by death and to those in the tombs giving life:

Sunday of the Holy Apostle Thomas:

Christ our true God, Who came to the disciples, the doors being closed, and made Thomas a believer for our salvation:

Ascension:

Christ our true God, Who was taken up in glory from us to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father for our salvation:

Pentecost Sunday:

Christ our true God, Who, in fiery tongues, sent down from heaven the Most Holy Spirit upon His holy disciples and apostles for our salvation:

Feasts of the Mother of God:

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the glorious feast of whose Nativity, *or* Patronage, *or* Entrance into the Temple, *or* Annunciation, *or* Dormition, we solemnly celebrate today; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves humankind.

The Passing of the Holy Apostle John the Theologian:

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostle and evangelist, virgin, bosom-friend, and beloved disciple of Christ, John the Theologian, the memorial of whose honorable passing we solemnly celebrate today; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves humankind.

*Synaxis of St. Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Hosts
and of all other Incorporeal Powers:*

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the protection of honorable, heavenly incorporeal powers, whose synaxis we solemnly celebrate today:

Nativity of St. John the Baptist:

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and the Lord's baptizer, John, whose nativity we solemnly celebrate today:

Feast of the Holy Chief Apostles Peter and Paul:

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy chief apostles, Peter and Paul, whose glorious feast we solemnly celebrate today:

Day of the Holy Prophet Elijah:

Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the holy, glorious prophet Elijah the Tishbite, the memorial of whose fiery ascent into heaven we solemnly celebrate today:

On the days of the other saints with vigil and of those with polyeleos but without vigil, one says: **whose memorial we solemnly celebrate today:**