

GREAT VESPERS ON JANUARY 24
GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE
VENERABLE DEMETRIOS THE SACRISTAN; NEW-MARTYR AUXENTIOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

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

Choir: Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled.

Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE GREAT EKTENIA

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 our Archbishop JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

(In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, 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: 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.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.

- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

For St. Gregory in Tone One (**O all-lauded Martyrs**)

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

That cause of oblivion, the grave, hath not covered up thy lips, since thou thyself art become the mouth of true theology, even now resounding, O wise Father Gregory, and crying out the doctrines of piety to every land on earth. Wherefore, make entreaty with the Lord that He grant peace and Great Mercy to our souls.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Thou wisely didst shun the hostile flesh with its treachery; and mounting the divine four-horsed chariot of virtues, which doth run up the course to Heaven, O famed Father Gregory, thou swiftly didst ascend to that beauty which no tongue can rightly tell; as thou fully revellest therein, thou now grantest peace and Great Mercy to our souls.

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Since thou, Father Gregory, by grace art become a true and faithful mediator between us men and God, employ thy prayers, which possess great boldness: make Christ merciful to us; and never cease entreating and interceding warmly with the Lord, O thou truly righteous man of God, that He grant peace and Great Mercy to our souls.

Also for St. Gregory in Tone Two (**With what fair crowns**)

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Come and with hymns and with sacred songs let us laud the divine Theologian, that unsleeping eye of the grace of God, the great resounding of all the Church, the marvelous boast of Orthodoxy; the Spirit's supremely wise and sweetly speaking mouth; the shining and guiding luminary of the world; revealed theology's fountain, ever-flowing river of the Godly doctrines of truth, the source ever gushing forth with streams of ambrosia sprung from God.

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

With great spiritual love on this day, let us hymn the wise hierarch with praises, that peer of Apostles in way of life, the valiant champion of piety, that great swelling deluge of divine speech; the sweet and delightful river of divine teachings; the firmness of lofty eloquence and rhetoric, those lips that thundered from Heaven, and the tongue that breathed fire, the deep treasury of wisdom, the preacher of God the Word, and the glory of all the faithful.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

As it is meet, let us all extol with our hymns the august Theologian, he who stood as guard of the flock of Christ, the all-wise hunter of savage wolves, uprooter of baseborn tares of falsehood, the greatly marvelous sower of correct doctrines, the mighty scourge and pursuer of the heretics, him that by vigilance in God hath increased the talents that were given him by Christ God, enlightening all the world with teachings of Godly radiance.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. GREGORY IN TONE EIGHT

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

Thy tongue, which is vigilant in teaching, soundeth in the ears of the heart, and arouseth the souls of the slothful; and by thy divinely spoken words, it is found to be a ladder that leadeth from earth to Heaven. Wherefore, O Gregory, thou Theologian, cease not to intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved from perils.

THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT

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

Verily, the King of heaven, for His love to mankind, did appear on earth; and with men did He deal; for He took unto Himself a body from the pure Virgin. And from her did He issue in the adopted body, He being one Son, dual in Nature, not dual in Person. Wherefore, do we confess, preaching the truth that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man. Therefore, O Mother who hast no groom, beseech thou Him to have mercy upon our souls.

THE HOLY ENTRANCE

(While the Doxasticon is chanted, the following dialogue occurs QUIETLY as the clergy make the entrance.)

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

Priest: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks unto Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O Master of all, Lord Who lovest mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto Thee, O Lord, Lord, are our eyes, and in Thee have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. 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.

Deacon: Amen.

(When the clergy reach the center of the solea, the first part of the great censuring begins. After the first part of the great censuring is completed, this next dialogue occurs QUIETLY.)

Deacon: Bless, father, the Holy Entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance to Thy Holy Place, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(After the choir has finished, the following is said ALOUD.)

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

- *Now sing the day's set Prokeimenon. If this Feast falls on a Sunday, consult the Weekend Service Texts page: http://www.antiochianladiocese.org/service_texts_weekends.html.*

SUNDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord. (TWICE)

Verse. Ye who stand in the temple of the Lord, in the courts of the House of our God!

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

MONDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

Choir: The Lord will hear me, when I cry unto Him. (TWICE)

Verse. When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me!

Choir: The Lord will hear me, when I cry unto Him.

TUESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE ONE

Choir: Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life. (TWICE)

Verse. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me to lie down in green pastures!

Choir: Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

WEDNESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE FIVE

Choir: Save me, O God, by Thy Name, and judge me by Thy strength. (TWICE)

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

Choir: Save me, O God, by Thy Name, and judge me by Thy strength.

THURSDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth. (TWICE)

Verse. I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come!

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth.

FRIDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SEVEN

Choir: Thou, O God, art my helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me. (TWICE)

Verse. Deliver me from my enemies, O God, and deliver me from those who rise up against me!

Choir: Thou, O God, art my helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The First Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs. (10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 34-35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1:23; 15:4)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The memory of the just is praised; but the name of the ungodly is extinguished. The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the just: but untimely grief shall cover the mouth of the ungodly. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, and the mortal who knows prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no evil thing shall resist her. Wisdom is well known to all that approach her, and no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. Hearken to me; for I will speak solemn truths; and will produce right sayings from my lips. Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me, and the mortal who shall keep my ways; watching daily at my doors, waiting at the posts of my entrances. For my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Ye, O men, I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge, and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. I love those that love me; and they that seek me shall find me. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge. For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. Behold, I will bring forth to ye the utterance of my breath, and I will instruct ye in my speech. The wholesome tongue is a tree of life, and he that keeps it shall be filled with understanding.

The Second Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (4:7-15)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding of grey hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

The Third Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Wisdom of Solomon. (Prov. 10:31-32; 11:4, 7, 19; 13:2, 9; 8:17; 15:2; 14:33; 22:11; Eccl. 8:1; Wis. 6:13, 12, 14-16; 7:30; 8:2-4, 7-9, 17-18, 21; 9:1-5, 10-11, 14)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. When the wicked dies, his hope perishes, and the expectation of the godless comes to naught. He who is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die. From the fruit of his mouth a good man eats good, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence. The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out. I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly. Wisdom abides in the mind of a man of understanding, but it is not known in the heart of fools. He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend. Who is like the wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his countenance is changed. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought. For it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. I loved her and sought her from my youth, and I desired to take her for my bride, and I became enamored of her beauty. She glorifies her noble birth by living with God, and the Lord of all loves her. She is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and an associate in His works. And if anyone loves righteousness, her labors are virtues; for she teaches self-control and prudence, justice and courage; nothing in life is more profitable for men than these. And if anyone longs for wide experience, she knows the things of old, and infers the things to come; she understands turns of speech and the solutions of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and of the outcome of seasons and times. Therefore I determined to take her to live with me, knowing that she would give me good counsel and encouragement in cares and grief. When I considered these things inwardly, and thought upon them in my mind, that in kinship with wisdom there is immortality, and in friendship with her, pure delight, and in the labors of her hands, unfailing wealth, and in the experience of her company, understanding, and renown in sharing her words, I went about seeking how to get her for myself. But I perceived that I would not possess wisdom unless God gave her to me—and it was a mark of insight to know whose gift she was—so I appealed to the Lord and besought Him, and with my whole heart I said: "O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy, Who hast made all things by Thy word, and by Thy wisdom hast formed man, to have dominion over the creatures Thou hast made, and rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul, give me the wisdom that sits by Thy throne, and do not reject me from among Thy servants. For I am Thy slave and the son of Thy maidservant, a man who is weak and short-lived, with little understanding of judgment and laws; Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of Thy glory send her, that she may be with me and toil, and that I may learn what is pleasing to Thee. She knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory. The reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail."

THE EKTENIA OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

- Deacon: Let us say with our whole soul, and with our whole mind, let us say.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Deacon: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, and for our Archbishop JOSEPH.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, [Names], and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church and (for the departed servants of God, [Names], and) all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Deacon: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
- Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening 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. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE EKTENIA OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer 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: That the whole evening 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 remission 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 fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

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.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.
Choir: And to thy spirit.
Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

- *All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

- *If your parish will offer “The Service of the Litia and Artoklasia”, it is performed here.*

APOSTICHA FOR ST. GREGORY IN TONE FIVE (**Rejoice**)

Rejoice, spring whence theology flowed, in thee the most exalted vision of God abode; for when thou, with Godly mind, hadst searched out that depth found on high, thou, O Father, madest manifest to all the single commingling of the Divine Light in Three Great Suns, which in identity of Godhead is truly one while yet being Three in the holy Hypostases. And with the splendor of thy words and purity of thy life, though taughtest all men to worship and praise the All-holy Trinity. Entreat Him to send down His Great Mercy on our souls, O thou man inspired of God.

Verse 1. My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Every heresy's black, bitter night hast thou dispersed with thy clear light of theology; for since thou, O Theologian, with thought divine and devout, didst attain the well-spring of effulgences, O Father, thou didst converse with the light that proceedeth thence; and having made thy mind a clear-shining looking-glass, thou resplendently didst receive, O wise Gregory, in thee the triple undivided light of Divinity and didst contain in abundance that ray and splendor of single light. Do thou now implore Him with great fervor that He grant His Great Mercy to our souls.

Verse 2. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom; and the lips of righteous men know graces.

Rejoice, thou rushing river of God, ever abounding with the waters of grace divine, for thou makest glad the city of Christ our King and our God with thy Godly doctrines and celestial words. Thou torrent of all delight, boundless sea inexhaustible, exact and lawful guard and keeper of God's decrees, fervent champion of the Most Holy Trinity; instrument of the Spirit, sober mind ever vigilant, sweet-sounding tongue that hath searched out the depth of Scripture with clarity. Do thou now implore Christ with great fervor that He grant His Great Mercy to our souls.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. GREGORY IN TONE EIGHT

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

Tilling the hearts of the faithful with thy speech, O Gregory, thou madest ever-flourishing fruits of piety to sprout forth in them for God; and uprooting the thorny heresies, thou didst adorn their thoughts with purity. Wherefore, as thou receivest our praises, O divine harp, O wakeful eye, O shepherd of shepherds, O hunter of the wolves, O Theologian, earnestly intercede with the Word in behalf of our souls.

THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT (**What shall we now call you**)

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

O my Queen and Lady, thou help of all, I am troubled in the darkness of adversities and woes, ever sinking and engulfed amidst the dashing waves of life; O Virgin, reach out unto me a hand of help and send a drop of thy sweet mercy down on me; and kindly grant me that blessed lot of all the righteous and the elect, since thou hast borne the Abyss of Mercy, O pure Maid.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Choir: Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN IN TONE ONE

The pastoral psalter of thy discourse in theology triumphed over the trumpets of orators and overcame it; for having sought the depth of the Spirit, there was also vouchsafed to thee excellence of speech, O Father Gregory. Wherefore, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

THEOTOKION IN TONE ONE

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

As Gabriel cried aloud unto thee, "Hail, O Virgin," with that cry did the Lord of all become incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake the righteous David; and Thou wast revealed, as more spacious than the heavens, in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore, glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to Him Who came from thee; glory to Him, Who through thy birth-giving hath set us free.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

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 (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, 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 the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our father among the saints Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable Demetrios the Sacristan; and New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.

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