

GREAT VESPERS ON JULY 19
PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH) THE THESBITE
RIGHTEOUS ILIYA CHAVCHAVADZE OF GEORGIA

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 LITANY

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 N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), 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 Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, 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: 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 the Prophet Elias in Tone One (***Thou art the joy***)

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

Thou Who didst translate Elias the Thesbite from the earth, * merciful Word, O Christ God, in a chariot of fire: * by his intercessions in prayer, save us all, * who now glorify Thee with faith, * while celebrating with gladness Thy Saint's divine * and most ven'erable memorial.

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 Who didst translate Elias the Thesbite ... (*repeat above*)

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Not in an earthquake, but in a light breeze didst thou behold * the presence of the Lord God, which enlightened thee of old; * and mounting on a swift four-horsed chariot, thou, * O Elias inspired of God, * didst strangely ride through the sky, O divinely blest, * being wondrous in the sight of all.*

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

Not in an earthquake, but in a light breeze ... (*repeat above*)

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

The priests of shame didst thou mightily slaughter with the sword; * thy tongue prevailed o'er heaven not to rain on earth, since thou * didst burn with zeal for God, O Elias most wise; * and thy mantle didst thou bestow * on Elisseus, abundantly filling him * with a double share of grace divine.

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

The priests of shame didst thou mightily slaughter ... (*repeat above*)

DOXASTICON FOR ST. ELIAS IN TONE SIX

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

Come, O company of the Orthodox, as we assemble today in the most august temple of the God-proclaiming Prophets, after the manner of the psalms let us sing a harmonious song to Christ our God, Who hath glorified them; and in joy and exceeding gladness let us cry: Rejoice, thou earthly Angel and heavenly man, O Elias, great of name. Rejoice, thou who didst receive double grace from God, O all-venerable Elisseus. Rejoice, ye fervent helpers, ye protectors and physicians of the souls and bodies of the Christ-loving people. Deliver from every enemy assault and tribulation, and from all manner of peril, those who keep with faith your most festive memorial.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX

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

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travailing and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of 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 soleia, 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

People: 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 Prokeimenon of the day. If this Feast falls on a Sunday, consult the Online Liturgical Guide: <http://www.antiochian.org/online-liturgical-guide>.*

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 PASSAGES

The First Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings (17:1-24).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The word of the Lord came to Elias the Prophet, and he said to Ahab: As the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, liveth, before Whom I stand today, there shall not be dew nor rain

these years, except by the word of my mouth. And the word of the Lord came to Elias, saying: Depart hence eastward, and hide thee by the brook of Horrath, which is before the Jordan. And it shall be that thou shalt drink water of the brook, and I will charge the ravens to feed thee there. And Elias did according to the word of the Lord, and he sat by the brook of Horrath before the Jordan. And the ravens brought him loaves in the morning, and flesh in the evening, and he drank water of the brook. And it came to pass after some days that the brook was dried up, because there had been no rain upon the earth. And the word of the Lord came to Elias, saying: Arise, and go to Sarephtha of Sidon, and dwell there; behold, I have commanded a widow woman to feed thee. And he arose, and went to Sarephtha, and came to the gate of the city; and, behold, a widow woman was there gathering sticks. And Elias cried after her, and said to her: Bring me now a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink. And she went to fetch it. And Elias cried after her, and said: Bring for me a morsel of bread in thy hand. And the woman said: As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but only a handful of meal in a pitcher, and a little oil in a cruse; and, behold, I am going to gather two sticks, and I shall go in and make it for myself and my children, and we shall eat it, and die. And Elias said to her, Be of good courage; go in, and do according to thy word; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it to me; and thou shalt make for thyself and thy children last. For thus saith the Lord God of Israel: The pitcher of meal shall not fail, and the cruse of oil shall not be diminished, until the day that the Lord God give rain upon the face of all the earth. And the woman went, and did according to the saying of Elias, and he ate, and she and her children. And from that day the pitcher of meal failed not, and the cruse of oil was not diminished, according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by the hand of Elias. And it came to pass after this, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick, and his sickness was exceedingly severe, until there was no breath left in him. And the woman said to Elias: What have I to do with thee, O man of God; hast thou come in to me to bring my sins to remembrance, and to slay my son? And Elias said to her: Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and took him up to the upper chamber in which he himself lodged, and laid him on his bed. And Elias cried aloud, and said: Woe is me, O Lord, the witness of the widow with whom I abide, Thou hast wrought affliction by slaying her son. And he breathed on the child thrice, and called on the Lord, and said: O Lord my God, let the soul of this child return to him. And it was so. And the child cried out; and the Lord heard the voice of Elias, and the soul of the child came into him again, and he lived. And Elias took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elias said: See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elias: Behold, I know that thou art a man of God, and the word of the Lord in thy mouth is true.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings (18:1, 17-41, 44, 42, 45; 19:1-16).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The word of God came to Elias the Thesbite in the third year, saying: Go and appear before Ahab, and I will bring rain upon the face of the earth. And it came to pass when Ahab saw Elias, that he said to him: Art thou he that perverteth Israel? And Elias said: I do not pervert Israel; but it is thou and thy father's house, in that ye forsake the Lord our God, and ye are gone after Baal. And now send, and gather to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, that eat at Jezebel's table.

And Ahab sent for all Israel, and gathered all the prophets to Mount Carmel. And Elias said to them: How long will ye halt on both knees? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. And Elias said to the people: I am left, the only one prophet of the Lord; and the prophets of the groves are exceedingly many. Let them give us then two oxen, and let them choose one for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire on the wood; and I will dress the other bullock, and put on no fire. And do ye call loudly on the name of your god, and I will call on the Name of the Lord my God, and it shall come to pass that the God who shall answer by fire, He is God. And all the people answered and said: The word which thou hast spoken today is good. And Elias said to the prophets of shame: Choose to yourselves one calf, and dress it first, and call ye on the name of your god; but apply no fire. And they took the calf and dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying: Hear us, O Baal, hear us. And there was neither voice, nor was there hearing; and they ran up and down on the altar which they had made. And it was noon, and Elias the Thesbite mocked them, and said: Call with a loud voice, for it may be your god meditateth, or else perhaps he is engaged in business, or perhaps he is asleep, and will awake. And they cried with a loud voice, and cut themselves according to their custom with knives and lancets until the shedding of blood upon them. And they prophesied until the evening came. And it came to pass as it was the time of the offering up of the sacrifice, that Elias the Thesbite spake to the prophets of the abominations, saying: Stand by for the present, and I will offer my whole-burnt sacrifice. And Elias said to the people: Come near to me. And all the people came near to him. And Elias took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Israel, as the Lord spake to him, saying: Israel shall be thy name. And he built up the stones, and repaired the altar of the Lord that had been broken down; and he made a trench that would hold two measures of seed round about the altar. And he piled the cleft wood on the altar which he had made, and divided the whole-burnt offering, and laid it on the wood, and laid it in order on the altar. And Elias said: Fetch me four pitchers of water, and let them be poured out on the altar, on the whole-burnt offering, and on the cleft wood. And he said: Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said: Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar, and filled the trench with water. And Elias cried aloud to Heaven, and said: Lord God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, hearken unto me this day by fire, and let this people know that Thou alone art the Lord, the God of Israel, and I am Thy servant, and for Thy sake I have done all these things; and that Thou hast turned back the heart of this people to Thee. Then fire fell from the Lord out of Heaven, and consumed the whole-burnt offering, and the cleft wood, and the water that was in the trench, and the fire licked up the stones and the earth. And all the people fell upon their faces, and said: Truly the Lord is God; He is God. And Elias said to the people: Seize the prophets of Baal, let not one of them escape; and they seized them, and Elias brought them down to the brook Kisson, and he slew them there. And after this Elias said to Ahab: There is a sound of the coming of rain, make ready thy chariot, and go down, lest the rain overtake thee. And Elias went up to Mount Carmel, and stooped to the ground, and put his face between his knees and prayed unto the Lord. And the heaven grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab went to Jezrael.

And Ahab told Jezebel his wife all that Elias had done. And Jezebel sent to Elias, and said: Tomorrow I will make thy life as the life of one of them. And Elias heard, and he feared, and he rose and fled for his life, and he came to Bersabee, to the land of Judah, and he left his servant there. And he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree, and asked concerning his life that he might die, and said: Let it be enough now, O Lord,

take, I pray Thee, my life from me, for I am no better than my fathers. And he lay down and slept there under the tree. And behold, someone touched him, and said to him: Arise, eat and drink, for the journey is far from thee. And Elias looked, and, behold, at his head there was a cake of meal and a cruse of water; and he arose, and ate and drank, and returned and lay down. And the Angel of the Lord returned again, and touched him, and said to him: Arise, eat and drink, for the journey is far from thee. And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that meal forty days and forty nights until he came to Mount Horeb. And he entered there into a cave, and rested there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said: What doest thou here? And Elias said: I have been very zealous for the Lord Almighty, because the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant; they have digged down Thine altars, and have slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I only am left alone, and they seek my life to take it. And He said: Thou shalt go forth tomorrow, and shalt stand before the Lord in the mount, and behold, the Lord will pass by. And, behold, a great and strong wind rending the mountains, and crushing the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire the voice of a gentle breeze. And it came to pass when Elias heard, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went forth and stood under the cave; and, behold, a voice came to him and said: What doest thou here, Elias? And Elias said: I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty, for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, and they have overthrown Thine altars, and have slain Thy prophets with the sword, and I am left entirely alone, and they seek my life to take it. And the Lord said to him: Go, return to thy journey, and thou shalt come into the way of the wilderness of Damascus, and thou shalt go and anoint Azael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Namessi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisseus the son of Saphat shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy stead.

The Third Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Third and Fourth Books of Kings (19:19-21 and 2:1, 6-14).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: It came to pass in that day, that Elias found Elisseus the son of Saphat, and he was ploughing with oxen. And Elias passed by to him, and cast his mantle upon him; and Elisseus left the oxen, and ran after Elias, and said: I will kiss my father, and follow after thee. And Elias said: Return, for I have done a work for thee. And he returned from following him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled them with the instruments of the oxen, and gave to the people, and they ate: and he arose, and went after Elias, and ministered to him. And it came to pass, when the Lord was going to take Elias with a whirlwind as it were into heaven, that Elias and Elisseus went out of Galgala. And Elias said to Elisseus: Stay here, I pray thee, for the Lord hath sent me to the Jordan. And Elisseus said: As the Lord liveth and thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they both went on, and fifty men of the sons of the prophets came also, and they stood opposite afar off, and both stood on the bank of the Jordan. And Elias took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters; and the water was divided hither and thither, and they both went over on dry ground. And it came to pass while they were crossing over that Elias said to Elisseus: Ask me what I shall do for thee before I am taken up from thee. And Elisseus said: Let there be, I pray thee, a double portion of thy spirit upon me. And Elias said: Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless if thou shalt see me when I am taken up from thee, then shall it be so

to thee; and if thou shalt not see this, it shall not be. And it came to pass as they were going on their way and speaking, behold, a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and it separated between them both; and Elias was taken up in a whirlwind as it were into heaven. And Elisseus saw, and cried: Father, Father, the chariot of Israel, and the horseman thereof! And he saw him no more. And Elisseus took hold of his garment, and rent it into two pieces. And Elisseus took up the mantle of Elias that fell from him. And Elisseus returned, and stood upon the brink of the Jordan. And Elisseus took the mantle of Elias that fell from him, and smote the waters, and they were not divided. And Elisseus said: Where indeed is the God of Elias? And he again smote the waters, and the waters were divided, and he went over on dry ground.

THE LITANY 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 N., (and for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.).

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 LITANY 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 another, 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 Lita and Artoklasia", it is performed here.*

THE APOSTICHA FOR ST. ELIAS IN TONE FOUR

*(**Thou who wast called from on high**)*

He who was hallowed before his own conception, * that incarnate angel and the mind that blazed with fire, * the man of Heaven, the most divine * and great forerunner * of Christ our God's second coming to the earth, * glorious Elias, the foundation of the choir * of sacred Prophets, hath spiritually * bid us feast-lovers * to celebrate his divine memorial. * By his entreaties and most holy prayers * do Thou keep all thy people, O Christ our God, * from all harm and the troubling * of the cunning and deceitful foe.

Verse 1. Touch not Mine anointed ones, and to My prophets do no evil.

That mighty Prophet whose mind was set on Heaven, * when the great Elias saw that all of Israel * was gone a whoring from God the Lord, * and that they held fast * unto the idols, he burned with fiery zeal; * he held back the clouds, dried up the earth, and with a word * shut up the heavens, and then he said: * Except by my mouth, * not even one drop of rain shall fall on earth;

* now he himself is master of our feast, * and with liberal bounty, he granteth us * grace that passeth all telling, * as we honor him with faith and love.

Verse 2. Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchisedek.

O seer of myst'ries ineffable and holy, * thou didst cleave in twain the River Jordan's running streams; * and the delusion of idols, thou * didst burn to ashes * with the fierce lightning-bolt of thy godly words. * When the king transgressed, thou didst rebuke him openly; * the shameful priests of iniquity, * thou boldly slewest; * and with thy prayer, thou didst burn thy sacrifice. * Now with the fire of thy most fervent prayer, * quench the flaming-hot coals of the sufferings * and distress of thy people, * O Elias, Prophet of the Lord.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. ELIAS IN TONE SIX

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

O Christ-proclaiming Prophet Elias, thou art inseparable from the throne of greatness, and ever-present at the side of everyone in sickness. Wherefore, O thou minister of the Highest, who blessest the universe and art glorified in every quarter, seek forgiveness for our souls.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX

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

Thou art the true vine, O Theotokos, bearing the Fruit of life. Thee do we implore. Wherefore, O Lady, intercede with the Apostles and saints for the salvation of our souls.

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 PROPHET ELIAS IN TONE FOUR

(***Be quick to anticipate***)

The incarnate Angel, and the Prophets' summit and boast, * the second forerunner of the coming of Christ our God, Elias, the glorious, * from above sent down his grace upon Elisseus; * he doth cast out sickness and doth also cleanse lepers; * and unto all that honor him, he poureth forth streams of cures.

THEOTOKION IN TONE FOUR

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

The Mystery which was hidden from everlasting and was unknown of the angels, O Theotokos, wast revealed through thee, to those who dwell upon earth. In that God, having become incarnate—in unconfused union—of His own good will accepted the Cross for our sake. Whereby He raised again the first created, and hath saved our souls from death.

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 the holy and glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) the Thesbite; and Righteous Iliya Chavchavadze of Georgia, 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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