

GREAT VESPERS ON OCTOBER 05
THOMAS THE APOSTLE; INNOCENT, APOSTLE TO THE AMERICAS

VENERABLE KENDEAS OF CYPRUS; VENERABLE-MARTYR MAKARIOS OF ST. ANNE SKETE ON ATHOS

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 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 FOUR

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.

For St. Thomas in Tone Four (**As one valiant**)

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

O wise Thomas most blessed of God, thou, on touching the Master's side, didst receive the uttermost pinnacle of good; for like a sponge, thou didst draw up the pure waters that flow from thence, as the Fount of all good things and divine everlasting life, giving thence to drink unto hearts parched and hardened by their ignorance; and thou didst well forth doctrines of the divine knowledge of our God.

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

O wise Thomas most blessed ... (repeat above)

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

By thy right faithful unbelief, O Thomas, were believers confirmed in faith, when thou didst first cry out confessing that in truth this was the Lord and the God of all creation, Who put on flesh for the sake of us on earth and Who willingly underwent both the Cross and death and the wounds of the nails, and with a spear was also pierced in His divine side, from which we draw forth eternal life.

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

For the faithful of godly mind, wondrous Thomas unsealed the spring of the saving doctrines, O Master; for in truth, when he had handled Thy side, he thence became an initiate of Thy twofold energies answering to Thy two essences, and he cried aloud: Thou, O Savior, art verily my Lord and God, Thou art the Sovereign Master, the Lord of Glory made flesh for me.

For St. Innocent in Tone Two

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

Like the Apostles long ago, O Holy Father Innocent, thou didst accept the Lord's command to baptize all peoples in His Name; thou didst leave thy homeland to proclaim His truth to an island people sitting in darkness. With them, lead us down the path to the Kingdom of Heaven.

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.

Like the betrothed of the Theotokos, thou. O Innocent, didst work with thy hands in humility; and through thee, like Constantine, churches blossomed throughout the land, built for the feeding of the flock that thou didst gather and lead into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Like the Holy Brothers from Thessalonica, who brought illumination to thy forefathers, thou, O Innocent, didst labor to bring this same inheritance to untaught peoples placed in thy care; that worshipping the One True God in words of many tongues, they might, by the Word, be led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

With what crowns of praise shall we adorn the wise Apostle Innocent of our land? With the radiant Gospel of salvation he came bodily to enlighten an island people who sat in darkness and ignorance; by planting there the Orthodox Faith, he brought to them Great Mercy from Christ our God.

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

With what songs of praise shall we now bless Innocent, our Teacher wise in God? As the first Archpastor to rule our land, by word and deed he taught us the way we must go to attain the glorious Kingdom won and promised to us by Christ, from Whom we have Great Mercy.

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

With what songs of virtue shall we exalt our Father Innocent? By his word he brought heathen worship to an end in the distant reaches of Alaska and Siberia. Then, like the Holy Apostle Paul before him, bound in chains of obedience to the will of God, he brought comfort to believers in the ancient capital, who through his prayers and exhortations receive Great Mercy from Christ our God.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. INNOCENT IN TONE TWO

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

Truly the Lord guided thee, O Innocent, along paths of many labors, through many lands, to many peoples, to enlighten a multitude of hearts, and to guide and counsel an army of souls down the narrow path that alone leads into the Kingdom of Heaven.

THEOTOKION IN TONE TWO

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

O Virgin, verily, the shadow of the law hath been annulled by the coming of thy grace; for as the bush was burning but not consumed, so didst thou give birth while yet a Virgin. And instead of the pillar of fire, the Sun of justice shone forth; and instead of Moses, Christ the Savior 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

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 (For St. Innocent)

The First Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs (A composite from chapters 10, 3 and 8).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The memory of the righteous is celebrated with praise and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom and the mortal who hath understanding, for it is better to purchase her than treasuries of gold and silver. She is more precious than precious stones and all that is precious is unworthy of her. For length of days and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she bears law and mercy upon her tongue. Hear me, O child, for I will speak noble things. Blessed is the man who keeps my ways, for my ways are the ways of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Therefore, hear me, I pray thee, and utter my voice to the sons of men: For I, Wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine, understanding and strength are mine. I love those who love me and those seeking me shall find grace. Understand craftiness, O ye who are simple, and imbibe knowledge, ye who are untaught. Hear me again, for I will speak noble things: I will open my mouth and from my lips shall come what is right. For my throat shall meditate truth; false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing in them that is twisted or perverse. They are all straight to him who understands and right to those who find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and ye shall be filled with the Spirit.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (A composite from chapters 4 & 5).

Deacon: Let us attend!

The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. The righteous man who has died will judge the ungodly who are living. For they will see the end of the righteous, and will not understand what was said about him; for the Lord will cast down the ungodly speechless to the ground and shake them from the foundations; they shall become desolate to the end; they will be in sorrows, and their memory will perish. For they will come with fear at the thought of their sins, and their iniquities shall stand against them to convict them. Then the righteous man will stand with great boldness before those who have afflicted him, and those who have made of no account his labors. Having seen it, they shall be troubled with much fear and they will be amazed at his most-glorious salvation. They will say within themselves in repentance, in anguish of spirit they will groan and say: "This was he whom we had sometimes in derision and a proverb of reproach—we fools! We accounted his life as madness, and his end to be without honor. How is he numbered among the sons of God? And why is his lot among the Saints? Therefore, we have erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness did not illumine us, nor did the sun shine on us. We took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction, and we walked impassible pathways, but the way of the Lord we have not known."

The Third Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (Prov. 10:31; 11:2; 10:2; 11:7, 19; 13:2, 9; Sirach 3:18; Prov. 26:11; 15:2; 14:33; 22:11; Eccl. 8:1; Prov. 17:24; Wis. 6:13, 12, 14-16; 7:30; 8:2-3, 7-9, 17-18; 8:21-9:5, 9:10-11, 14)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom. Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, 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. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favor in the sight of the Lord. Like a dog that returns to his vomit: it is a fool that repeats his folly. 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. A man of understanding sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. 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. And if any one 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 any one 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, unfailling 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 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 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 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 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 Lita and Artoklasia”, it is performed here.*

THE APOSTICHA FOR ST. INNOCENT IN TONE SIX

Called to the New World by the grace of God, as a skilled helmsman of the Ship of Christ, thou didst endure dangers on the sea to lead to the calm harbor of salvation those adrift in darkness, those bemired in delusions, and those bestormed by passions. Now, O Holy Father Innocent, intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

Verse 1. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

A prophet raised from among the Aleuts heard from an Angel that, leaving thy family, thou wouldst journey afar to speak with a great man. Then, by the infinite wisdom and mercy of God, once his words had been fulfilled, we didst receive thee back again, as the first bishop to rule our land. Now intercede for the flock thou didst gather.

Verse 2. The Lord knows the way of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever.

Peoples of two continents, of diverse languages and customs, through thee, O Innocent, rejoice today in the mystery of the fiery tongues: the fall of that cursed tower of human pride that had kept in enmity all nations of the earth until they were swept into the net of faith, worshipping the consubstantial Trinity.

THE APOSTICHA FOR ST. THOMAS IN TONE FOUR

Christ the Lover of mankind drew thee up like a pearl from the deep abyss of the turbulence of the world, and through thee hath He made rich those in want and hardship, held fast in the penury of adversities and straights, O godly Thomas, Apostle of the Lord. Hence we now call thee blessed and glorify thine all-festive memory as we offer thee songs of praise and acclaim thee with reverence.

Verse 1. His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and his words unto the ends of the world.

Thou didst make the whole land of the Hindus shine with a splendid light, O Apostle and seer of God; for thou didst enlighten them in the Holy Spirit, making all to be children of the light and of the day, dashing the shrines of their idols to the ground, and raising churches up by grace unto the glory and praise of God, sacred Thomas divinely-wise, blessed ambassador for our souls.

Verse 2. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

With thy probing hand didst thou search out the God-man’s all-spotless side and the wounds of the nails therein, which the Immortal One suffered for us sinners; suddenly then changing thine unbelief to fervent faith, O Thomas, thou didst cry out to Him in joy: Thou art my Lord and God; to Thee do I give glory, O Lover of mankind, by Whose Passion dispassion’s floods have gushed forth for all faithful folk.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. THOMAS IN TONE SIX

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

As a seer of divine mysteries, thou hast been mystically revealed to be a noetic wine-bowl of the wisdom of Christ, wherewith the souls of the faithful make merry, O Apostle Thomas; for with the divine net of the Spirit, thou drewest peoples out of the deep of despair. Wherefore, thou

didst issue from Zion like a river of grace, flooding the whole creation with thy God-inspired doctrines. Since thou wast pierced in thy side in imitation of the Passion of Christ, and hast entered the dark cloud of incorruptibility, entreat Him that our souls find mercy.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX

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

O Lady, when I bring to mind that dread and awful tribunal, and that judgment when thy Son shall examine all the world, O thou Maid most pure, I am dazed and afraid; fear and trembling seize me at the prospect of the inquiry into my deeds and works, which are all profane, vile and full of shame, deserving every punishment, darkness and rejection and banishment. See my tribulation; behold the crushed affliction of my soul, and from that torment deliver me, and that dread necessity.

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. THOMAS IN TONE THREE

O holy Apostle Thomas, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. INNOCENT IN TONE FOUR

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

O Holy Father Innocent, in obedience to the will of God, thou didst accept dangers and tribulations, bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth. Thou didst show us the way; now by thy prayers help lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

THEOTOKION IN TONE FOUR

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, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle Thomas, called “The Twin”; of our father among the saints Innocent, Apostle to the Americas; Venerable Kendeas of Cyprus; and Venerable-martyr Makarios of St. Anne Skete on Athos, 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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