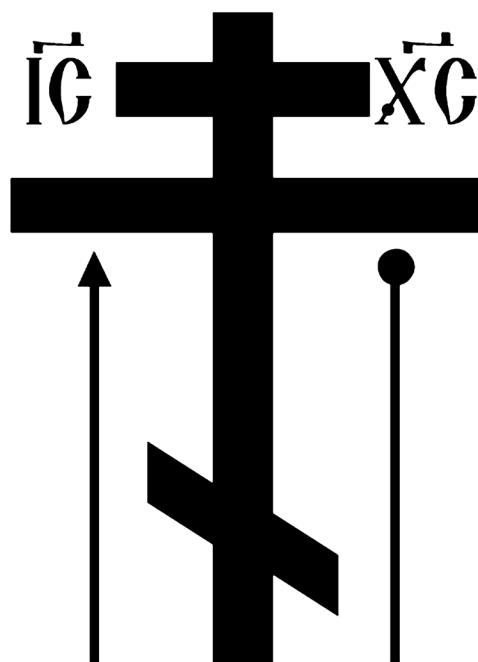


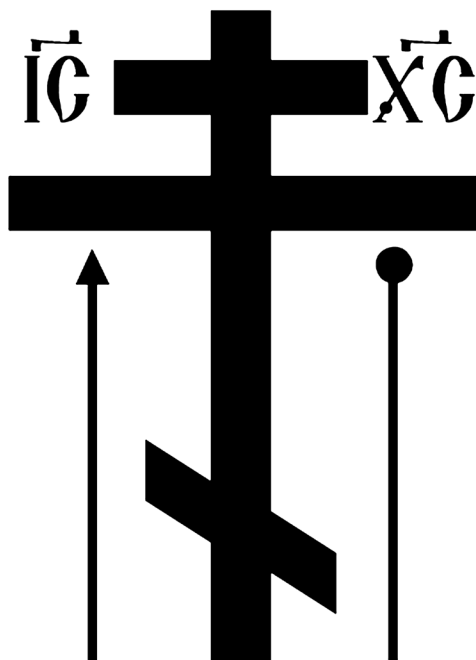


The Mystery of Anointing

Δόμνι εἰκόνη ζήνι μύροφόροι
Holy Myrrh-bearers
Ο Οἶκος τῶν Ἀγίων Μυροφόρων

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MMXXV

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A.D. 2025 Venerable Benedict of Nursia
2025 г. Прп. Венедикта Нурсийского

The Mystery of Anointing

In the center of the Nave, opposite the Thronos, a table with the Holy Gospel, small hand censer, a cruet with a small amount of wine, and an ornate bowl containing flour into which has been placed an oil lamp (the Eternal Light from the Altar), surrounded by seven beeswax candles. The flour is used to make three Prosphora for the Liturgy on Great Thursday, which are prepared immediately after the Unction Service. Two Prosphora provide the Lambs: one prepared for Communion on reserve and kept in the Artophorion, and the other two for Communion on Great Thursday.

The Unction Service may be celebrated either in the midst of the people, with the clergy facing East, or in the center of the Nave, with the clergy facing East.

If more than one Priest is serving, the Senior Priest gives the opening Blessings and the Dismissals, and reads the Prayer of the Oil, the First Gospel and Prayer, the Prayer of Anointing, and the Prayer of Forgiveness. The other Priests take turns, according to seniority, in reading the other six Gospels and Prayers.

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Reader: O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present, and fillest all things, the Treasury of all good and Endower of Life, come and abide in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Trisagion

Reader: 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, be gracious unto our sins; Master, forgive our iniquities; Holy One, 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.

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 the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy (*Twelve times*).

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

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

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

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

Psalm 142

O Lord, hear my prayer; give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my

spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. *(Thrice)*

O Lord, our Hope, glory to Thee.

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 the servants of God (here present; *or Names*) and that the Grace of Thy Holy Spirit may come upon them.

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

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Alleluia, Tone VI

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Stichos: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, neither chasten me in Thy wrath.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Stichos: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Troparia, Tone VI

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for at a loss for any defence, this supplication do we sinners offer unto Thee as Master: Have mercy on us.

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

Lord, have mercy on us, for we have trusted in Thee, be not angry with us greatly, neither remember our iniquities; but look upon us now as Thou art compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies, for Thou art our God, and we, Thy people; all are the works of Thy hands, and we call upon Thy name.

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

The portal of compassion open unto us, O blessed Theotokos, for hoping in thee, let us not go astray; through thee may we be delivered from adversities, for thou art the salvation of the Christian race.

During Psalm 50, the Deacon censes the entire Church with the small hand censer.

Psalm 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine

iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightiest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The Canon

Tone IV

Ode I

Irmos: Israel, having in times past walked dry-shod across the expanse of the Red Sea, put the might of Amalek to flight in the wilderness by Moses keeping his hands uplifted in the form of a Cross.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Master, Who ever makest glad the souls and bodies alike of mortal men with the oil of compassion, and by oil preservest Thy Faithful, take pity also on those who now draw nigh unto Thee through oil.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

The whole earth is full of Thy mercy, O Master; wherefore, in faith we beseech Thee that Thou wilt bestow upon us, who today are to be anointed with Thy Divine and precious oil, Thy mercy which passeth understanding.

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

O Thou Who lovest mankind, Who in Thy loving-kindness didst enjoin Thine Apostles to perform Holy Unction upon Thine ailing servants, do Thou, by their prayers, have mercy on us all by Thy seal.

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

O only Pure one, who art endowed with an ocean of peace, by Thine intercessions unto God deliver thy servants from maladies and afflictions, that they may unceasingly magnify thee.

Ode III

Irmos: Thy Church maketh glad in Thee, O Christ, and crieth aloud: "Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge and my stronghold."

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Thou Who alone art wondrous and gracious unto faithful men, grant Thy Grace from on high unto Thy sorely ailing servants, O Christ.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Lord, Who of old didst show forth an olive-branch unto the abating of the Flood through Thy Divine command, in Thy mercy save those who suffer.

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

With the lamp of light Divine, in Thy mercy make bright through this Unction, O Christ, those who now in faith make haste to Thy mercy.

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

Graciously look down from on high, O Mother of the Creator of all, and by thine intercessions dispel the bitter suffering of those in sickness.

Sessional Hymn, Tone VIII

As Thou art a Divine river of mercy and an Abyss of great loving-kindness, O Compassionate One, show forth the Divine streams of Thy mercy, and heal all men. Pour forth abundantly fountains of wonders and cleanse us all; for, ever having recourse unto Thee, we fervently implore Thy Grace.

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

Sessional Hymn, Tone IV

O Physician and Helper of the suffering, O Redeemer and Savior of the sick, do Thou Thyself, O Master and Lord of all, grant healing unto Thy ailing servants. Show compassion, have mercy on those who have grievously erred, and deliver them from their sins, O Christ, that they may glorify Thy Divine might.

Ode IV

Irmos: Seeing Thee lifted upon the Cross, O Sun of Righteousness, the Church stood in her order and cried aloud: "Glory to Thy power, O Lord."

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Savior, Who art like unto incorruptible Chrism that is poured forth by Grace and purifieth the world, take pity and show mercy on those who anoint their bodily wounds with Divine faith in Thee.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Having now signed the senses of Thy servants, O Master, with the gladsome seal of Thy mercy, render it impossible for any adverse powers to enter them.

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

O Thou Who commandest the ailing to summon Thy pious ministers and to procure salvation through their prayers and unction with Thy holy oil, by Thy mercy save those who suffer, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

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

O Ever-Virgin, All-Holy Theotokos, my steadfast protection and guardian, haven and wall, ladder and fortification, have mercy and take pity on the infirm, for unto thee alone have they fled for refuge.

Ode V

Irmos: O Lord, Who art my Light, Thou hast come into the world as a light of holiness, turning back from the darkness of ignorance those who hymn Thee with faith.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Good One, who art the Abyss of mercy, through Thy holy oil, O Merciful One, have mercy on those who suffer, in that Thou art compassionate.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Christ, Who hast inexpressibly sanctified both our souls and bodies from on high by the Divine impress of Thy seal, heal us all by Thine hand.

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

O Lord supreme in goodness, Who through Thine ineffable love didst accept anointing with unguent at the hands of a harlot, take pity on Thy servants.

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

O all-hymned, pure, and supremely good Lady, have mercy on those who are to be anointed with Divine oil, and save Thy servants.

Ode VI

Irmos: "I shall sacrifice to Thee, O Lord, with the voice of praise," the Church crieth out to Thee, cleansed from the gore of demons by the Blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Thou Who lovest mankind, Who by Thy words didst institute anointment for kings and didst accomplish this by the hands of High Priests: by Thy seal save also those who suffer, as Thou art compassionate.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Let no intrusion of malignant demons, O Savior, touch the senses of those marked with Thy Divine anointing, but wall them about with the protection of Thy Glory.

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

Stretch forth Thine hand from on high, O Thou Who lovest mankind, and having sanctified Thine oil, bestow it, O Savior, upon Thy servants, unto healing and deliverance from all their diseases.

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

Thou hast proved to be a fruitful olive tree in the house of thy God, O Mother of the Creator, and thereby the world is seen to be filled with mercy. Hence, by the touch of thine intercessions save those who suffer.

Kontakion, Tone II

O Fountain of mercy, Who art supremely good, deliver from every adversity those who with fervent faith bow down before Thine ineffable mercy, O Compassionate One; and, taking away their maladies, grant them Divine Grace from on high.

Ode VII

Irmos: The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace, burning with a love for the true Faith that was stronger than the flames, cried out from the midst of the fire: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord, in the temple of Thy glory."

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Thou Who in Thy mercy and compassions, O Savior and only God, dost heal both the passions of the soul and the bodily afflictions of all, do Thou Thyself, O Compassionate One, cure those who suffer from infirmities.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

In anointing the heads of all with the oil of Unction, in Thy rich mercy, O Lord, vouchsafe the joy of gladness unto those who seek the mercy of Thy redemption.

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

Thy seal is a sword against demons, O Savior, a fire that consumeth the passions of the soul, through the prayers of Priests; wherefore, we who have received healing hymn Thee with faith.

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

O Mother of God, who didst hold within thy womb in God-befitting manner and ineffably gavest flesh unto Him that holdeth all things in the palm of His hand, propitiate Him on behalf

of those who suffer, we beseech thee.

Ode VIII

Irmos: Daniel in the lions' den stretched out his hands in prayer and stopped their mouths; and, girded with virtue, the Youths, lovers of the true Faith, quenched the power of the fire, as they cried: "O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord."

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Have mercy on all, O Savior, according to Thy great and Divine mercy; for, in a mystical adumbration thereof, O Master, we offer anointing with holy oil unto the ailing, whom do Thou heal by Thy power.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

By the streams of Thy mercy, O Christ, and through anointing by Thy Priests, wash away, as Thou art compassionate, O Lord, the agonies, the wounds, and the assaults of pain from those racked by grievous sufferings, so that, cleansed by Thee, they may obtain strength.

We praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God.

From us who mark ourselves with Divine oil as a token of help from on high and of gladness, O Master, take not away Thy mercy, neither despise those who with faith ever cry unto Thee: "O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord."

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

Nature hath accepted thy Divine birthgiving, O Pure one, as a glorious crown that wardeth off the hosts of adversaries and mightily defeateth them; wherefore, crowned with the joyful radiance of thy Grace, we extol thee, O all-hymned Lady.

Ode IX

Irmos: Christ, the Cornerstone not cut by hand of man was taken from the unquarried Mount, from thee, O Virgin, and hath joined together two disparate natures; wherefore with rejoicing, O Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Look down from Heaven, O Compassionate One, and show forth Thy mercy upon all; grant now Thy succor and Thy strength unto those who draw nigh unto Thee through Divine Unction at the hands of Thy Priests, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O All-Good Savior, we have beheld with rejoicing the holy oil, which Thou hast accepted in Thy Divine condescension for the sake of those who shall partake thereof, and symbolically impartest unto those who partake of the Divine laver.

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

Take pity and have mercy on Thy servants, O Savior; deliver them from terrors and pains, and rescue them from the darts of the Evil One, healing their souls and bodies by Divine Grace, as Thou art a merciful Lord.

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

As thou receivest the hymns and supplications of thy servants, O Virgin, so also deliver from irksome sufferings and pains those who, through us, have recourse to thy Divine protection, O All-Immaculate one.

Hymn to the Theotokos

Choir: It is truly meet to bless thee, the Theotokos, ever-blessed and most blameless, and Mother of Our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Exaposteilarion, Tone III

In Thy mercy, O Good One, cast Thine eyes upon the petitions of us who have come together in Thy Holy Church today, to anoint Thine ailing servants with Thy Divine oil.

The Psalms of Praise, Tone IV

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Thou hast given Thy Grace, O Thou Who art easily conciliated and lovest mankind, through Thine Apostles, by Thy holy oil, for the healing of the wounds and infirmities of all; wherefore, sanctify those who now draw nigh with faith unto Thine oil and have mercy on them, as Thou art compassionate; cleanse them of every ailment, and vouchsafe them Thine incorruptible delight, O Lord.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

O Thou Whom none can comprehend, Who by Thine invisible hand hast sealed our senses in Thy love for mankind, as Thou art compassionate, look down from Heaven upon those who in faith have recourse to Thee and beseech remission of their transgressions through Thy Divine oil, and grant them healing of both soul and body, that with yearning they may glorify Thee, magnifying Thy power.

Refrain: O Master Christ, have mercy on Thy servants.

Through the anointing of Thine oil and the touch of Thy Priests, O Thou Who lovest mankind, sanctify Thy servants from on high; deliver them from diseases; purge and wash away defilement from their souls, O Savior, and rescue them from insidious stumbling blocks; assuage their pains, drive away calamities, and destroy all their afflictions, as Thou art merciful and compassionate.

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

Thee do I entreat, O much-hymned one, the most pure palace of the King, cleanse my mind that is defiled by all manner of sins, and make it a delightful abode for the supremely Divine Trinity, that I, thy useless servant, being saved, may magnify thy power and mercy beyond measure.

Trisagion

Reader: 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, be gracious unto our sins; Master, forgive our iniquities; Holy One, 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.

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 the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Apolytikion, Tone IV

O Thou Who alone art swift to succor, O Christ, manifest Thy speedy visitation from on high upon Thine ailing servants; deliver them from diseases and bitter pains; raise them up to hymn Thee and to glorify Thee without ceasing; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

Litany

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 our Archbishop *Name*; and all our brethren in Christ.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the suffering Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation.

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

Deacon: Again we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, the brethren of this holy temple.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for them that bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that minister and them that chant, and for all the people here present, that await of Thee great and abundant mercy.

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

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; and Saint *Name (to whom the church is dedicated)*; and Saint *Name (of the day)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.

After the Dismissal, incense is offered: the Gospel Book, which is an Icon of Jesus Christ, is censed first of all, then the small table, the Holy Icons, and finally the Faithful.

The Priest makes three prostrations, invoking the mercy of God: O God be gracious to me, a sinner.

After this, the second part of the Mystery of Anointing begins. The Priest takes the Gospel Book and holds it upright over the oil that is to be blessed.

Deacon: Bless, Master.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

At the same time, the Priest makes the sign of the Cross thrice over the oil.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon: For our Archbishop *Name* 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: For the Faithful in attendance, who await the Grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That this oil may be blessed by the power, energy, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

*Deacon: For the servants of God (here present; or *Names*) and for their visitation by God, and that the Grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon them, let us pray to the Lord.*

Deacon: That both they and we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

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 most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee is due all glory, honour and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Priests and the Deacon stand around the table. The Senior Priest reads the Prayer of the Oil. The other Priests also recite it inaudibly along with the Senior Priest. During this Prayer, a little wine is added to the oil in the lampada.

Prayer of the Oil

Priest: O Lord Who, in Thy mercy and compassion, healest the afflictions of our souls and bodies: Do Thou Thyself, O Master, sanctify this oil, *(the Senior Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the oil thrice, as do the other Priests from where they are standing)*, that it may be for those who shall be anointed therewith unto healing and deliverance from every passion, bodily disease, defilement of flesh and spirit, and every ill; and that therein may be glorified Thine All-Holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The choir then chants the following hymns.

Tone IV

O Thou Who alone art swift to succor, O Christ, manifest Thy speedy visitation from on high upon Thine ailing servants; deliver them from diseases and bitter pains; raise them up to hymn Thee and to glorify Thee without ceasing; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

Tone IV

Blinded in the eyes of my soul, I draw nigh unto Thee, O Christ, like the man blind from his birth; and in repentance I cry unto Thee: "Thou art the exceeding radiant Light of those in darkness."

Tone III

As of old Thou didst raise the Paralytic, O Lord, by Thy Divine authority do Thou raise up my soul, which is paralysed grievously by all manner of sins and unseemly deeds, that being saved I may cry: "O compassionate Christ, glory to Thy power."

Tone IV

As a Disciple of the Lord, O Holy one, thou hast received the Gospel; as a Martyr thou art never turned away; as the Brother of God thou hast boldness; as a Hierarch thou canst intercede. Do thou entreat Christ God that He save our souls.

Tone IV

God the Word, the Only-Begotten of the Father, came to us in these latter days, O Divine James, and He hath made thee the first Shepherd and Teacher of Jerusalem, and a faithful steward of spiritual Mysteries; wherefore we all honor thee, O Apostle.

Tone III

In Myra, O Saint, thou didst prove to be a Minister of things sacred; for, having fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O Holy one, thou didst lay down thy life for thy people, and didst save the innocent men from death; wherefore, thou wast sanctified as a great initiate of the Grace of God.

Tone III

A great champion hath the inhabited earth found thee to be when in perils; for thou didst put to flight the heathen, O Trophy-bearer. As thou didst humble Lyaïos' arrogance and gavest boldness to Nestor in the stadium, thus, O Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, do thou entreat Christ God that He grant us great mercy.

Tone III

O holy Prize-winner and Healer Panteleimon, intercede with the Merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Tone VIII

O holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, visit our infirmities; freely have ye received, freely give to us.

Tone II

Who can tell thy mighty works, O Virgin Saint? For thou pourest forth miracles, and art a well-spring of healings, and thou dost intercede for our souls, as the Theologian and Friend of Christ.

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

Tone II

O fervent advocate and impregnable wall, O fountain of mercy and refuge of the world, unto thee do we earnestly cry: "O Lady Theotokos, come thou to our aid, and deliver us from perils, O thou who alone art our speedy protectress."

During each Epistle Reading, the Priest censes around the table, and concludes with censing the Faithful from his place at the west side of the table.

Prokeimenon, Tone I

Reader: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise becometh the upright.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Catholic Epistle of James.

Deacon: Let us attend.

First Epistle

James §57B (5:10-16)

Brethren, take the Prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone I

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: I will sing to Thee, O Lord, of mercy and judgment; I will chant and have understanding in a blameless way.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: I have walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Before each Gospel Reading, the Priest lights a candle.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

First Gospel

Luke §53 (10:25-37)

At that time, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And He said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

First Prayer

Priest: O Thou Who art unoriginate, eternal, Holy of Holies, Who didst send down Thine Only-Begotten Son to heal every disease and every weakness of our souls and bodies: Send down Thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this oil; and cause it to be for Thy servants who are about to be anointed therewith unto complete deliverance from their sins, unto inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

For Thou art a great and wondrous God, Who keepest Thy covenant and Thy mercy towards those who love Thee; Who grantest deliverance from sins through Thy Holy Child, Jesus Christ; Who hast regenerated us from sin; Who givest light to the blind and raisest up those who are cast down; Who lovest the righteous and showest mercy upon sinners; Who renewest us from darkness and the shadow of death, saying unto those in bonds, 'Come forth,' and unto those in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' For the light of the knowledge of Thine Only-Begotten Son hath shone forth in our hearts, since for our sake He was seen upon earth and dwelt among men; and unto those who received Him He gave the power to become the

sons of God, bestowing upon us the adoption of sonship through the laver of regeneration, and causing us to be free from the oppression of the Devil. Since it hath not pleased Him that we should be cleansed by blood, but by holy oil, He hath given us the sign of His Cross, that we might become the Flock of Christ, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, purifying us by water and sanctifying us by the Holy Spirit. Do Thou Thyself, O Master and Lord, give us Grace in this Thy ministry, as Thou gavest it unto Moses, Thy servant, unto Samuel, Thy beloved, unto John, Thy chosen one, and unto all those who in every generation have been well-pleasing unto Thee. In like manner, make us also to be ministers of the New Covenant of Thy Son upon this oil, which Thou hast purchased through His work of the Devil, an unassailable seal, the exultation of the heart, and eternal gladness; that those who shall be anointed with this oil of regeneration may be fearful to their adversaries, and may shine in the splendors of Thy Saints, having neither spot nor wrinkle; and that they may enter into Thine eternal rest and receive the reward of the calling from on high. precious Blood; so that putting off worldly lusts, we may die unto sin, and live unto righteousness, being clothed with our Lord Jesus Christ through the anointing of this sacred oil that is about to be applied to us. May this oil, O Lord, become the oil of gladness, the oil of sanctification, a royal robe, a breastplate of might, the averting of every work of the devil, the seal of immunity from snares, the joy of the heart, an eternal rejoicing: That they who shall be anointed with this oil of regeneration may be fearsome unto their adversaries, and may shine in the radiance of they saints, having neither spot nor wrinkle, and that they may attain unto Thy rest everlasting, and receive the prize of their high calling.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prokeimenon, Tone II

Reader: The Lord is my strength and my song, and is become my salvation.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The Lord hath chastened me sore, but He hath not given me up to death.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of The Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Second Epistle

Romans §116 (15:1-7)

Reader: Brethren, we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone II

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, for ever; I will declare Thy truth with my mouth unto generation and generation.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Righteousness and judgment are the establishment of Thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before Thy countenance.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Second Gospel

Luke §94 (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus Who He was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him: for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Second Prayer

Priest: O God great and most high, Who art adored by all creation, Fountain of wisdom, truly unfathomable Abyss of goodness, and boundless Ocean of compassion: Do Thou Thyself, O Master Who lovest mankind, the God of things preëternal and of wonders, Whom none among men by taking thought can conceive, look down and hearken unto us, Thine unworthy servants, and wheresoever in Thy great Name we shall offer this oil, send down the gift of Thy healing and remission of sins, and heal them in the multitude of Thy mercy. Yea, O Lord Who art readily conciliated, Who alone art merciful and lovest mankind, Who repentest Thee of our vices; Who knowest that the mind of man inclineth towards wickedness, even from his youth; Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should return and live;

Who for the salvation of sinners didst become incarnate, being God, and didst Thyself become a created being for the sake of Thy creatures; Thou art He Who didst say: "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Thou art He Who soughtest out the lost sheep; Thou art He Who diligently soughtest out the lost piece of silver and foundest it; Thou art He Who didst say: "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out"; Thou art He Who didst not abhor the harlot who washed Thy precious feet with her tears; Thou art He Who didst say: "As often as thou fallest, arise, and thou shalt be saved"; Thou art He who didst say: "There is joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth." Do Thou, O compassionate Master, look down from the height of Thy sanctuary, overshadowing us, Thy sinful and unworthy servants, with the Grace of the Holy Spirit at this hour, and take accepting them in Thy love for mankind, and forgiving them whatsoever they have done amiss, whether in word, in deed, or in thought, cleanse them from every sin; and abiding ever present with them, preserve them for the remaining time of their life, that, walking ever in Thy statutes, they may in no wise again become an object of malignant joy to the Devil, so that Thine All-Holy Name may be glorified in them. up Thine abode in these Thy servants, who acknowledge their trespasses and draw nigh unto Thee in faith; and,

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prokeimenon, Tone III

Reader: The Lord is my light and my Savior; whom then shall I fear?

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the First Epistle of The Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Third Epistle

I Corinthians §153 (12:27-13:18)

Reader: Brethren, ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of Angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone III

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped, let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Thy righteousness and rescue me.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, save me in Thy mercy; O Lord, let me not be ashamed, for I have called upon Thee.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Third Gospel

Matthew §34 (10:1, 5-8)

At that time, when Jesus had called unto Him His twelve Disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons: freely ye have received, freely give.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Third Prayer

Priest: O Master Almighty, O Holy King, Who chastenest and yet slayest not; Who upholdest those who fall, and settest aright those who are cast down; Who relievest the bodily afflictions of men: We beseech Thee, O our God, that Thou wilt direct Thy mercy upon this oil and upon those who shall be anointed therewith in Thy Name; that it may be effectual unto the healing of their souls and bodies, and unto cleansing and deliverance from every passion, disease, and malady, and from every defilement of flesh and spirit. Yea, O Lord, send down from Heaven Thy healing power; touch the bodies, quench the fever, soothe the pangs, and banish every hidden ailment. Be Thou the Physician of these Thy servants. Raise them up from their bed of pain and their couch of suffering. Grant them unto Thy Church sound and whole, pleasing Thee and doing Thy will.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the

ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prokeimenon, Tone IV

Reader: In the day when I call upon Thee, speedily hearken unto me.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come unto Thee.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Second Epistle of The Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Fourth Epistle

II Corinthians §182 (6:16-7:1)

Reader: Brethren, ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone IV

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me, and He hearkened unto my supplication.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: But Thou, O Lord, remove not Thy tender mercies far from me; let Thy mercy and Thy truth continually succor me.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Fourth Gospel

Matthew §26 (8:14-18)

At that time, when Jesus was come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the Prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all

their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Fourth Prayer

Priest: O good Lord Who lovest mankind, compassionate and great in mercy, great in lenity, and rich in goodness, the Father of mercies, and God of all consolation, Who through Thy Holy Apostles hast empowered us to heal the infirmities of Thy people by oil and prayer: Do Thou ordain this oil unto the healing of those who shall be anointed therewith, unto relief from every disease and every malady, and unto deliverance from evils for those who await salvation from Thee. Yea, O Master, Lord our God, we beseech Thee, O Almighty One, that Thou wilt save us all. O only Physician of souls and bodies, sanctify us all. O Thou Who healest every disease, heal also these Thy servants; raise them up from their bed of pain, through the mercy of Thy goodness; visit them with Thy lenity and tender mercies; cast out from them every sickness and infirmity; so that being raised up by Thy mighty hand, they may serve Thee with all thanksgiving; and so that we also, who now partake of Thine inexpressible love for mankind, may hymn and glorify Thee, Who performest deeds great and wondrous, both glorious and extraordinary.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prokeimenon, Tone V

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us, and shalt preserve us.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man ceaseth.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Second Epistle of The Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Fifth Epistle

II Corinthians §168 (1:8-11)

Reader: Brethren, we would not have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: but we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in Whom we trust that He will yet deliver us; ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone V

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Blessed is the man that regardeth the poor and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in an evil day.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: May the Lord help him on his bed of pain; the whole of his confinement in his sickness hast Thou turned to the better.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Fifth Gospel

Matthew §104 (25:1-13)

The Lord said this parable: The kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Fifth Prayer

Priest: O Lord our God, Who chastenest and again trespassee, both voluntary and involuntary. Heal Thou healest; Who raisest up the poor man from the earth, and exaltest the needy from the dunghill; O Father of orphans, Haven of the tempest-tossed, and Physician of the ailing, Who painlessly didst bear our weaknesses and assume our infirmities; Who showest mercy with gladness; Who passest over our iniquities and takest away our unrighteousness; Who art swift to help and slow to wrath; Who didst breathe upon Thy Disciples and say: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit; whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them"; Who acceptest the repentance of sinners and hast authority to forgive sins manifold and grievous, and bestowest healing upon all who continue in weakness and lingering sickness; Who hast

called me, also, Thy humble, sinful, and unworthy servant, entangled in manifold sins and wallowing in the lusts of pleasures, to the holy and exceedingly lofty degree of the Priesthood, and to enter within the innermost Veil, into the Holy of Holies, where the Holy Angels desire to gaze, to hear the voice of the Lord God which announceth glad tidings, and to behold with mine own eyes the presence of the holy Oblation, and to take delight in the Divine and Sacred Liturgy; Who hast vouchsafed me to administer Thy Heavenly Mysteries, and to offer unto Thee gifts and sacrifices for our sins and the ignorances of Thy people, and to act as a mediator for Thy rational sheep, that Thou, through Thy great and ineffable love for mankind, mightest blot out their transgressions: Do Thou Thyself, O King supreme in goodness, hearken unto my prayer in this hour and holy day, and at every time and place, and attend to the voice of my supplication and of these Thy servants, who are weak both in soul and in body, granting them remission of their sins and forgiveness of their incurable wounds, and every ailment and every malady. Grant them health of soul, O Thou Who didst touch Peter's mother-in-law, whereupon the fever left her, and she arose and ministered unto Thee. Do Thou Thyself, O Master, grant healing also to these Thy servants, and deliverance from every pernicious illness, and remember Thy rich mercies and Thy lenity. Remember that the mind of man persistently inclineth unto evil from his youth, and that not so much as one sinless man is to be found upon the earth; for Thou alone art without sin, Who didst come down and save the human race, and free us from the bondage of the enemy. For if Thou wilt enter into judgment with Thy servants, none shall be found pure from stain, but every mouth shall be sealed, having no defense to offer; for all our righteousness is as a filthy rag before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, remember Thou not the sins of our youth.

For Thou art the hope of the hopeless, and the rest of them that labor and are heavy laden with iniquities, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prokeimenon, Tone VI

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, and according to the abundance of Thy tender mercies blot out mine iniquity.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of The Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Sixth Epistle

Galatians §213 (5:22-6:2)

Reader: Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone VI

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; he will delight greatly in His command-

ments.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: For the upright light hath sprung up in darkness; he is merciful, compassionate, and righteous.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Sixth Gospel

Matthew §62 (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His Disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Sixth Prayer

Priest: We thank Thee, O Lord our God, Who art good and lovest mankind, the Physician of our souls and bodies, Who painlessly hast borne our infirmities, by Whose stripes we have all been healed; Thou, O Good Shepherd, Who camest to seek the erring sheep; Who givest consolation to the fainthearted and life to the contrite; Who didst heal the flow of the woman who had an issue of blood twelve years; Who didst free the daughter of the Canaanite woman from the cruel demon; Who forgavest the debt unto the two debtors and didst grant remission of sins unto the woman that was a sinner; Who didst bestow healing upon the Paralytic together with the remission of his sins; Who didst justify the Publican by his words, and didst accept the Thief at his last confession; Who takest away the sins of the world, and wast nailed to the Cross: We beseech Thee and entreat Thee; in Thy goodness loose, remit, and forgive,

O God, the iniquities and the sins of Thy servants and their trespasses, both voluntary and involuntary, whether in knowledge or in ignorance, whether of betrayal or of disobedience, whether of the night or of the day; whether they be under the ban of a Priest, or the curse of father or mother; whether they have gratified their eyes, indulged their sense of smell, become degenerate through touch, pandered to their sense of taste, or through whatever impulse of flesh and spirit they have departed from Thy will and Thy holiness. If we, too, have sinned in like manner, forgive us, as Thou art a good God Who rememberest not evil and lovest mankind, and let not them or us fall into a sordid life or deviate into destructive paths. Yea, O Master and Lord, hearken unto me, a sinner, at this hour, for the sake of these Thy servants, and overlook all their transgressions, as Thou art a God Who rememberest not evil; deliver them from eternal torment; fill their mouth with Thy praise; open their lips that they may glorify Thy Name; stretch forth their hands to the observance of Thy commandments; guide their feet aright in the way of Thy Gospel, strengthening all their members and their minds by Thy Grace. For Thou art our God, Who hast given us a commandment through Thy Holy Apostles, saying: "Whatsoever ye bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever ye loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven." And again: "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosesoever sins ye retain, they are retained." And as Thou didst hearken unto Hezekiah in the affliction of his soul, at the hour of his death, and didst not despise his supplication, so also, in like manner, hearken unto me, Thy humble, sinful, and unworthy servant who supplicate Thee at this hour. For Thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, art He Who in Thy goodness and love for mankind didst command us to forgive those who fall into sins, even unto seventy times seven, and Who repentest Thee of our wickedness, and rejoicest over the return of those who have gone astray. For as is Thy majesty, so also is Thy mercy; and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prokeimenon, Tone VIII

Reader: Turn not Thy countenance away from Thy servant, for I am afflicted

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: I am poor and in sorrow; may Thy salvation, O God, be quick to help me.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the First Epistle of The Holy Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Seventh Epistle

I Thessalonians §273 (5:14-23)

Reader: Brethren, we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Priest: +Peace unto thee that readest.

Alleluia, Tone VIII

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Let Him send thee help from His sanctuary, and let Him succor thee out of Sion.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: +Peace unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Seventh Gospel

Matthew §30 (9:9-13)

At that time, as Jesus passed forth from thence, He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and He saith unto him, Follow Me. And he arose, and followed him. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him and His Disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto His Disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of the sins of the servants of God (here present; *or Names*), and for the forgiveness of all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Seventh Prayer

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Physician of souls and bodies, who curest chronic sufferings and healest every disease and every infirmity of Thy people; Who desirest that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth; Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he should return and live; for Thou, O Lord, in the Old Covenant, didst ordain repentance unto sinners, unto David and the Ninevites, and unto those who went before them and those who came after them; and likewise, at the advent of Thine incarnate OEconomy, Thou didst not call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; Who didst accept in repentance the Publican, the harlot, the thief, the blasphemer and persecutor Paul the great; and Who didst accept in repentance Peter, Thy Chief Apostle, who denied Thee thrice, and gavest him a promise saying: "Thou art Peter, and on this rock will I build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it; and I will give thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven." For this cause, O Good One Who lovest mankind, we also take courage, according to Thine unerring promises, and we beseech Thee and implore Thee at this hour: Hearken unto our supplication and receive it as incense offered unto Thee, and visit these Thy

servants, and if they have done aught amiss, either in word, in deed, or in thought, either by night or by day, if they have fallen under the ban of a Priest, or under their own anathema, or have been embittered by an oath and have sworn an oath, we beseech Thee and supplicate Thee: Remit, pardon, and forgive them, O God, overlooking their iniquities and sins, both those that they have done knowingly and those that they have committed in ignorance. And if they have transgressed any of Thy commandments, or have trespassed in that they bear flesh and dwell in the world, or through the activity of the Devil, do Thou Thyself, as Thou art a good God Who lovest mankind, forgive them; for there is no man that liveth and doth not sin. For Thou alone art sinless, Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy word is truth. For Thou hast not created man for perdition, but for the keeping of Thy commandments and for the inheritance of life incorruptible; and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Prayer of Anointing

Priest: O Holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies, Who didst send Thine Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every disease and deliver from death: Heal Thou also these Thy servants from the ailments of body and soul that beset them, and quicken them through the Grace of Thy Christ; by the intercessions of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; by the power of the honored and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the venerable, heavenly, bodiless Powers; by the supplications of the venerable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy Healers and Unmercenaries Kosmas and Damian, Kyros and John, Panteleimon and Hermolaos, Samson and Diomedes, Mokios and Aniketos, Thallelaios and Tryphon; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints.

For Thou art the Fount of healings, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

If more than one Priest is serving, the other Priests anoint themselves. The Senior Priest then anoints the forehead, chin, cheeks, and hands of the Faithful, saying:

The servant of God *Name* is anointed, unto healing of both soul and body.

The following Stichera are chanted while the Priest anoints the Faithful with the holy oil.

Stichera, Tone IV

O holy Unmercenaries, who have a fountain of healing, give ye healing unto all who ask it, in that ye have been vouchsafed gifts most excellent from the ever-flowing fountain of our Savior. For the Lord saith unto you, as fellow zealots of the Apostles: "Lo, I have given you authority over unclean spirits, that ye may drive them out, and heal every disease, and every wound." Wherefore, having lived well in His commandments, freely ye have received, freely do ye give, healing the passions of souls and bodies.

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

Take heed of the entreaties of thy servants, O All-Blameless one, checking grievous uprisings against us and freeing us from every affliction; for thee alone do we have as a steadfast and sure anchor and we have thy protection. May we who invoke thee not be put to shame, O Lady; hasten to the supplication of those who cry to thee with faith: "Rejoice, O Lady, thou help, joy, and protection of all, and salvation of our souls."

During the reading of the Prayer of Forgiveness, the Senior Priest places his Epitrachelion on the head of the nearest believer or the one who is most ill and has the greatest need, and on top of this the Holy Gospel, always closed; this is held by the Senior Priest and the remaining Priests place their hands on it. The Senior Priest then reads the Prayer of Forgiveness.

Prayer of Forgiveness

Priest: O Holy King, compassionate and great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he should return and live, I lay not my sinful hand on the heads of those who have come unto Thee in sins and seek remission of sins from Thee through us, but do Thou stretch Thy mighty and powerful hand on this Holy Gospel, which my fellow-ministers are holding over the heads of these Thy servants; and with them I also beseech and implore Thy most compassionate and lenient love for mankind: O God our Savior, Who through Thy Prophet Nathan didst grant remission to the repentant David for his sins, and didst accept Manasses' prayer of repentance, do Thou Thyself, in Thy wonted love for mankind, accept also these Thy servants who repent of their trespasses, disregarding all of their offenses. For Thou art our God, Who didst command us to forgive, even unto seventy times seven, those who fall into sins, for as is Thy majesty, so also is Thy mercy; and unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Priests then all kiss the Gospel. The Senior Priest gives the Dismissal.

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our True God, by the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless Holy Mother; by the Power of the honored and life-giving Cross; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle James, the Brother of God; and of all the Saints: may He have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.

КОНЕЦЪ, И БѢГЪ НАШЕМУ СЛАВА.
The end, and to our God be the glory!

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