

THE PARAKLESIS SERVICE



The Little Supplicatory Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos

The Paraklesis Service:

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The Paraklesis service is served during times of tribulation and each evening of the Dormition Fast (August 1-13; except August 5 and Saturdays).

An Icon of the Theotokos is placed on a stand in the center of the Solea and the Royal Doors remain closed. The priest, being vested in exorasson and epitachelion, standing on the Solea before the Icon of the Theotokos, makes three metanias and says in an audible voice:

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

People: Amen.

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.

People: 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 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 our God.

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

PSALM 143 (142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in Thy faithfulness answer me, and 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 smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto Thee: my soul thirsteth after Thee, as a thirsty land. Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit faileth: hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto Thee to hide me. Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy Name's sake: for Thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. And of Thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear to my supplications: and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.
(Twice)

Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

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!

GOD IS THE LORD... (Tone 4)

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

(Verse 1) O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

(Verse 2) All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

(Verse 3) I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

(Verse 4) The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKIA AND THEOTOKION

(Tone 4) To the Theotokos let us run now most earnestly, we sinners all and wretched ones, and fall prostrate in repentance, calling from the depths of our souls: Lady, come unto our aid, have compassion upon us; hasten thou for we are lost in a throng of transgressions; turn not thy servants away from empty hands, for thee alone do we have as our only hope.

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

(The appointed Apolytikion of the Church Temple or Festal Season.)

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

(Tone 4) O Theotokos, we shall not cease from speaking of all thy mighty acts, all we the unworthy ones; for if thou hadst not stood to intercede for us, who would have delivered us from such numerous dangers? Who would have preserved us all until now in true freedom? O Lady, we shall not turn away from thee; for thou dost always save thy servants from all manner of grief.

PSALM 51 (50)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy: according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out mine iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned, and done evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was shapen in iniquity: and in sin did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth: the unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made clear to me. Thou

shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: the bones which Thou hast broken shall rejoice. Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my 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 steady me with a guiding spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways: and the impious shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it Thee: Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good will unto Zion: that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offerings: then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine Altar.

THE CANON (Tone 8)

Ode 1

Traversing the water as on dry land, and there-by escaping from the toils of Egypt's land, the Israelites cried aloud. Proclaiming unto our God and redeemer, let us now sing.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

By many temptations am I distressed. In search of salvation unto thee have I taken flight. O Mother of the Word and ever Virgin, from all ordeals and afflictions deliver me.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Attacks of the passions disquiet me; my soul to repletion has been filled with despondency. Be still then, O Maiden, with thy calmness of thine own Son and thy God, O All-blameless One.

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

To God and the Savior thou gavest birth. I beg thee, O Virgin, from afflictions deliver me. For now unto thee I flee for refuge, bringing to thee both my soul and my reasoning.

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

Diseased is my body and my soul. Do thou make me worthy of divine guidance and thy care, O thou who alone art God's Mother, for thou art good, and the Birth-giver of the Good.

Ode 3

Of the vault of the heavens art thou, O Lord, fashioner. So, too, of the Church art Thou Founder. Do Thou establish me in unfeigned love for Thee, Who art the Height of things sought for, and staff of the faithful, O Thou only Friend of man.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

I have thee as the shelter and the defense of my life. Thee, the Theotokos and Virgin, pilot and govern me into thy sheltered port, for thou art the author of good things and staff of the faithful, O thou only lauded one.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

I beseech thee, O Virgin, do thou dispel far from me all of the distress of despair and turbulence in my soul, for thou, O Bride of God, hast given birth to the Lord Christ, Who is the Prince of Peace, O thou only All-blameless one.

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

Since thou brought forth Him Who is our benefactor and cause of good from the wealth of thy loving kindness, do thou pour forth on all for thou canst do all things, being one mighty in power, for thou gavest birth to Christ. Blessed of God art thou.

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

With most grievous diseases and with corrupt passions, too I am put to trial, O Virgin. Come thou unto my aid, for I know thee to be an inexhaustible treasure of unfailing healing, O thou, the All-blameless one.

HYMNS AFTER THE THIRD ODE (Tone 8)

Preserve and save, O Theotokos, thy servants from every danger. After God, do all of us from refuge flee unto thee; a firm rampart art thou and our protection.

In thy good-will, look thou on me, O all-hymned Theotokos, and do thou behold my body's grievous infirmity, and heal thou the cause of my soul's sorrow.

THE IMPETRATORY EKTENIA

Censing the Icon of the Theotokos, the Priest says:

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

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

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan (*Name*), and for our Father and Bishop (*Name*).

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

Priest: Again we pray for our brethren: the Priests, Hieromonks, Deacons, Hierodeacons and Monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

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

Priest: 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.

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

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who 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.

People: Amen.

KATHISMA (Tone 2)

O fervent advocate, invincible battlement, fountain of mercy, and sheltering retreat for the world, earnestly we cry to thee: Lady Mother of God, hasten thou, and save us from all imperilment, for thou alone art our speedy protectress.

THE CANON CONTINUES (Tone 8)

Ode 4

I have hearkened and heard, O Lord of Thy dispensation's most awesome mystery, and I came to knowledge of Thy works, and I sang the praise of Thy divinity.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Lull the tempests of all my sins and be still the raging of passions with thy calm, for progenitress art thou of Him Who is Lord and helmsman, O thou Bride of God.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

O bestow out of the abyss of thy great compassion on me, thy supplicant, for thou brought forth One compassionate, Who is the Savior of all who sing hymns to thee.

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

While delighting O spotless one in thy many favors, a hymn of thankfulness do we all raise up our song to thee, knowing thee to be the Mother of God.

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

Having thee as our staff and hope and as our salvation's unshaken battlement from all manner of adversity, are we then redeemed, O thou All-lauded one.

Ode 5

Lord, enlighten us by Thy precepts and by Thy commands and by the power of Thy lofty arm bestow Thy peace upon us all, as Thou art Friend of man.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Pure one, fill my heart with rejoicing unto plenitude, and grant thing undefiled felicity, since thou didst give birth unto Him Who is the cause of joy.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Come deliver us out of dangers, Pure Mother of God, since thou art Mother of deliverance, and of the peace which doth surpass all human reasoning.

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

Dissipate the gloom of my trespasses, O Bride of God, with the clear brightness of thy radiance, for thou didst bear the Light Divine which was before all time.

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

Heal me, O Pure one, of the sickness which the passions bring, and make me worthy of thy guardianship, and by thy prayers and intercessions grant thou health to me.

Ode 6

Entreaty do I pour forth unto the Lord, and to Him do I proclaim all my sorrows, for many woes fill my soul to repletion, and lo, my life unto hades has not drawn nigh. Like Jonah do I pray to Thee. Raise me up from corruption, O Lord, my God.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

My nature held by corruption, and by death hath He saved from out of death and corruption, for unto death He, Himself, hath submitted. Wherefore, O Virgin, do thou intercede with Him Who is in truth thy Lord and Son, to redeem me from enemies' wickedness.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

I know thee as the protection of my life and most safe fortification, O Virgin. Disperse the horde of my many temptations and put to silence demonic audacity. Unceasingly I pray to thee: from corruption of passions deliver me.

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

A bulwark of safe retreat art thou to us, and of souls art thou the perfect salvation, and a relief in distresses, O Maiden, and in thy light do we ever exult with joy. O Lady to thou also now from all passions and dangers deliver us.

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

Bedridden I lie supine with sickness now, and no healing for my flesh is existent, except for thee who didst bear the world's Savior, our God, the healer of every infirmity. I pray to thee for thou art good. From corruption of illnesses raise me up.

HYMNS AFTER THE SIXTH ODE (Tone 8)

Preserve and save, O Theotokos, thy servants from every danger. After God, do all of us from refuge free unto thee; a firm rampart art thou and our protection.

O Spotless one, who inexpressibly in the last days by a word brought forth the Word, do thou make request of Him, as one who hath motherly boldness.

THE IMPETRATORY EKTENIA

Censing the Icon of the Theotokos, the Priest says:

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

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

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Priest: Again we pray for our brethren: the Priests, Hieromonks, Deacons, Hierodeacons and Monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

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

Priest: 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.

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

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who 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.

People: Amen.

KONTAKION (Tone 2)

O Protectress of Christians that cannot be put to shame, and their constant intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners who are imploring thee; in thy goodness come to our help, who in faith cry to thee: hasten, O Theotokos, to intercede for us, and hurry to pray for us, for thou hast always protected those who honor thee.

ANABATHMOI (Tone 4)

From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior.

Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up.

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

Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.

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

Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

PROKEIMENON (Tone 4)

The priest dons the phelonion.

I shall proclaim Thy Name from generation to generation. *(Twice)*

Stichos: Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear.

I shall proclaim Thy Name from generation to generation.

GOSPEL READING

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

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

Priest: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

People: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (1:39-49, 56).

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

Priest: Let us attend! In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

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

APOLYTIKIA (Tone 2)

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

The Trinity in unity, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

O entrust me not, I pray, to any human protection, O our Lady, Holy one, but do thou accept the prayer of thy supplicant. Sorrow hath fettered me, and I am unable to endure and bear the demon's darts; a shelter have I not, nor a place to run.

I the wretched one; embattled from all sides am I, and no consolation have I but thee; Mistress of creation, protection and hope of faithful ones, turn not away when I turn to thee; do that which will profit me.

THEOTOKION (Tone 2)

From thee is no one turned away ashamed and empty who doth run to thee for refuge, O pure Virgin Theotokos; but he asketh the favor and receiveth the gift from thee, unto the profit of his own request. The transformation of the afflicted, and the relief of those in sickness art thou in truth, O Virgin Theotokos; save thy people and thy flock, thou who art the peace of the embattled, and who art the calm of the storm-driven, the only protection of those who believe.

THE INTERCESSION

Priest: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, great Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our Holy Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon, the wonder-worker, Bishop of Trimythos, Sophronios of Jerusalem, Meletios of Antioch, Nektarios the wonder-worker, Bishop of Pentapolis; of the holy, glorious Great Martyrs George the Trophy-Bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore of Tyre, Theodore the General, Stephen the First-Martyr; of the Sacred Martyrs Haralampos, Eleftherios, Polycarp, Cyprian, Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Milos of Babylon, Gurias and Samonas of Edessa, Ananias of Damascus; of the holy virgin Martyrs, Thekla, the First-Martyr, Fevronia of Mesopotamia, Irene, Katherine, Barbara of Baalbek, Anastasia, Evdokia the Penitent of Baalbek, Marina, Pelagia of Antioch, Vevaia of Edessa, Theodosia of Tyre, Akylina of Byblos; of the Holy, glorious, and triumphantly victorious Martyrs, the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste, Serguis and Amphian of Beirut, Trophimis, Savatios and Dorymedon of Antioch, Domnina and her children Berina and Prosdoki, Peter of Bosra, the children Asterios, Claudios, Neon, and Neonilla,

Galaktion and Epistimia of Homs, Romanos the Martyr, Antony of Damascus, Silvanos, Luke and Makios of Homs, Joseph of Chalepon, Cyril the Deacon of Baalbek, Julietta and her son Kyriakos, Vassa of Mesopotamia, and Andrew the General; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, Anthony the Great, Efthymios, Arsenios the Great, Sava the Sanctified, Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians, Makarios and Pakhomios the Great of Egypt, Simeon the Stylite, Alexos the Man of God, John of Damascus, Maximos the Confessor, Mark the Anchorite, John Cassian the Roman, Simeon the New Theologian, Peter, Athanasios and Paul of the Holy Mountain Athos, Seraphim of Sarov; of our venerable and God-bearing Mothers, Mary of Egypt, Pelagia, Thais, Kyra of Syria, Marana of veria, Pansemne of Antioch; of the Holy Unmercenaries and Healers, Penteleimon, Cosmos and Damian, Cyrus and John, Anthimos of Arabia; of *(Name of the Patron Saint of the Church)*, the patron and protector of this Holy community; of the Holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of *(Name(s) of the Saint(s) of the Day)*, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Twelve times)*

Priest: Through the mercies and bounties and compassion of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-Holy, and good, and Life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

THE CANON CONTINUES (Tone 8)

Ode 7

Once from out of Judea did the children go down to the land of Babylon. The fire of the furnace they trampled down, while chanting by their faith in the Trinity. O God of our Fathers blessed art Thou.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Having willed thus, O Savior, to dispense our salvation in Thine economy, Thou dwelt within the Maid's womb and unto all creation as protectress Thou showed her forth. O God of our Fathers blessed art Thou.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Make request, O pure Mother to thy Son, Who hath willed to grant mercy unto us, to rescue from transgressions and from the soul's defilement those who cry out most faithfully. O God of our Fathers blessed art Thou.

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

A fount of incorruption and a tower of safety is she who gave Thee birth. A treasure of salvation and portal of repentance hast Thou provided her to them that shout. O God of our Fathers blessed art Thou.

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

Deign to grant restoration from diseases of body and soul to those who run to thy divine protection with faith, O Theotokos, and this grant them recovery. O Mother of Christ our Savior art Thou.

Ode 8

The King of Heaven, Whom all the hosts of angels hymn with their chants and praises of glory, praise ye and exalt Him to the ages forever.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Do not disdain those who seek the aid that thou dost grant, for, O Virgin Maiden, they do hymn thee, and they all exalt thee unto ages forever.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

On all who hymn thee with faith, O Virgin, and exalt thy truly ineffable Off-spring, thou poured forth a great abundance of thy cures and healings.

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

All the diseases that plague my soul dost thou make well, and the sufferings of the flesh thou healest, wherefore, O thou Maiden full of grace, I glorify thee.

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

All the assaultings of the temptations dost thou quell, and the on-slaughts of the passions banish, wherefore do we hymn thee to all ages, O Virgin.

Ode 9

Most rightly we confess thee as our God's birth-giver we, who through thee have been saved, O thou Virgin most pure. With choirs of bodiless angels, thee do we magnify.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

The torrents of my weeping turn not with refusal, for thou gave birth unto Him, Who doth take away all tears from every face, O thou Virgin, for He is Christ indeed.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Do thou, O Virgin Maiden, fill my heart with gladness, for thou art she who received all the fullness of joy and made to vanish away all sorrow of sinfulness.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

A haven and protection and a wall unshaken and a rejoicing and shelter and place of retreat do thou become, O thou Virgin for those who flee to thee.

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

Illumine with the radiance of thy light, O Virgin, all those who piously call thee the Mother of God, and do thou banish away all darkness of ignorance.

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

Brought low am I, O Virgin, in a place of sickness and in a dwelling of anguish. Grant healing to me, transforming all of my illness into full healthfulness.

The Priest does the Great Censing as the people chant:

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

THE MEGALYNARIA (Tone 8)

Higher than the heavens above art thou, and thou art much purer than the radiance of the sun, for thou hast redeemed us out of the curse that held us. O Mistress of creation, thee do we magnify.

From the great abundance of all my sins, ill am I in body, ailing also am I in soul. Thee have I as refuge. Do thou therefore help me, O hope of all the hopeless, for thou art full of grace.

O Lady and Mother of Christ our God, receive supplication from us sinners, who beg of thee, that thou make entreaty unto the One born from thee. O Mistress of creation, pray thou to God for us.

Now we chant with eagerness unto thee with this hymn, most joyful Theotokos, all lauded one. Together with the Baptist and all the Saint together, beseech, O Theotokos, that we find clemency.

Speechless be the lips of the impious who refuse to reverence the revered Icon which is known by the name Directress and which hath been depicted for us by the Apostle, Luke, the Evangelist.

O all ye array of angelic hosts, O ye Holy Baptist, and ye Holy Apostles, all the Saints together, as well as God's birth giver, pray make ye intercessions for our deliverance.

THE TRISAGION PRAYER

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.

People: Amen.

(The appointed Apolytikion of the Day or of the Festal Season.)

THE IMPETRATORY EKTENIA

Censing the Icon of the Theotokos, the Priest says:

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

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

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan *(Name)*, and for our Father and Bishop *(Name)*.

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

Priest: Again we pray for our brethren: the Priests, Hieromonks, Deacons, Hierodeacons and Monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

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

Priest: 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.

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

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who 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.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

People: Father, bless!

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

People: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

People: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain 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.

People: 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, *(insert appropriate characteristic phrase)* through the intercessions of His all-Immaculate and all-blameless Holy Mother; *(insert appropriate daily commemoration)*; of the Holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of *(Name of the Patron Saint of the Church)*, the patron and protector of this Holy community; of the Holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of *(Name(s) of the Saint(s) of the day)*, 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 Master, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

People: Amen.

The clergy and faithful come forward and venerate the Icon of the Theotokos.