

GREAT VESPERS ON AUGUST 31
BEGINNING OF THE INDICTION: ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR
RIGHTEOUS SIMEON THE STYLITE; SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS AT MIASINAE

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

Choir: Amen.

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

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

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

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREAT EKTENIA

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

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

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

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.

- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

For the Indiction in Tone One

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

Come, O ye faithful, and since we have learned that sacred prayer which Christ Himself hath spoken in His own divine teaching, let us cry each day to our Maker and say: O our Father in Heaven's heights, as Thou art merciful, give us our daily bread, overlooking our unnumbered sins.

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

As when the Jews disobeyed Thee once in the wilderness, their bodies fell and were strewn on the earth as was fitting, so now also, Christ our God, scatter the bones of the faithless and impious nigh unto Hades, as David saith in the Psalm, for Thou art the Master of all things.

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

Thou Who on holy Mount Sinai didst write the tablets of old, seen in the flesh and present now in Nazareth, deignest Thyself to read the Book of Thy Prophet, O Lord; and, O Christ God, on closing it, Thou didst instruct all the people that now in truth what was written of Thee was fulfilled.

For St. Simeon in Tone Five

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

As great Elias had a chariot of fire of old, so thou, O Father, didst devise a good ladder on earth, whereby thou didst ascend unto the highest Heaven. He did not leave behind his means of ascent, nor did he bequeath it to be possessed by others; but as for thee, even after death, thou yet possessest thy pillar for all to see. O thou celestial man and thou terrestrial angel, unsleeping luminary shining on the whole world, O our illustrious Father Simeon, with great fervor make intercession, beseeching Christ our God that our souls be saved, we pray.

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

O righteous Father, if thy pillar had a voice to speak, it never would cease crying aloud concerning thy pains and struggles and great labors and lamentations. For it was not thy pillar

that bare thee up; but it was supported by thee and ever borne up like some most mighty and fruitful tree, receiving increase and growth from thy ceaseless tears. The Angels marveled, and the sons of men were awestruck, and demons quaked with fear, beholding thine endurance. O our illustrious and righteous Father Simeon, with great fervor make intercession, beseeching Christ our God that our souls be saved, we pray.

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

O righteous Father, emulating Christ, thy Sovereign Lord, thou wentest up thy pillar as though ascending a cross, while strengthened with the might of the Holy Spirit. But Christ the Lord forgave the sins of all men, blotting out the writing against the sons of Adam, while thou didst vanquish and bring to naught every assault of the passions and carnal lusts; He, as a spotless sheep; thou, as a willing victim; He, on the Cross of shame, and thou, upon thy pillar. O our illustrious and righteous Father Simeon, with great fervor make intercession, beseeching Christ our God that our souls be saved, we pray.

Also for St. Simeon in Tone Two

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

A good fruit hath sprouted from a good root, even the sacred Simeon, who from infancy was fed on grace rather than milk. Lifting up his body on a rock, but lifting up his mind even more unto God, through the virtues he built himself an ethereal dwelling; and soaring on high with the divine hosts, he became a dwelling-place of Christ, the God and Savior of our souls.

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

Thy memorial abideth unto the ages, O righteous Father Simeon, and so doth the meekness of thy heart, O blessed servant; for though thou art translated from among us, O good shepherd, yet thou hast not departed from us in spirit, even as thou standest before God with love, and dancest with the Angels in the Heavens, with whom do thou intercede before God that our souls be saved.

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

The shrine of thy relics poureth forth healings, O all-acclaimed Father; and thy holy soul rightfully rejoiceth, as it dwelleth with the Angels; wherefore, since thou hast boldness with the Lord, O righteous Simeon, and joinest choir with the Angels in the Heavens, entreat Him that our souls be saved.

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

Thou didst love the highest philosophy, O God-bearer, and in living above that which is visible, thou becamest as it were outside of the world. Thou didst prove to be a divine and unspotted mirror of God; and being ever united with light, thou hast received light, and hast manifestly found a blessed end. Intercede for our souls, O wise Simeon.

DOXASTICON OF ST. SIMEON IN TONE SIX

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

Divine grace hath hovered over the shrine of thy relics, O sanctified Simeon; wherefore, we run to the fragrance of the myrrh of thy miracles, and we draw forth healing of our maladies. O righteous Father, pray to Christ God in behalf of our souls.

THEOTOKION OF THE INDICTION IN TONE SIX

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

O Thou Who art united with the Holy Spirit, O Word and Son which art without beginning, joint Fashioner and Creator with Him of all things visible and invisible: Bless the crown of the year, and preserve in peace the multitudes of the Orthodox, through the intercessions of the Theotokos and of all Thy Saints.

THE HOLY ENTRANCE

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

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

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

Deacon: Amen.

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

Deacon: Bless, father, the Holy Entrance.

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

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

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

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

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

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

SUNDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

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

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

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

MONDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

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

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

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

TUESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE ONE

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE FIVE

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

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

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

THURSDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

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

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

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

FRIDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SEVEN

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

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

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The First Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-10).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me; He has sent me to preach glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of recompense of our God; to comfort all that mourn: that there should be given to them that mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of joy to the mourners, the garment of glory for the spirit of heaviness. And they shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. And they shall build the old wastelands, they shall raise up those that were before made desolate, and shall renew the desert cities, even those that had been desolate for many generations. And strangers shall come and feed thy flocks, and aliens shall be thy plowmen and vinedressers. But ye shall be called priests of the Lord, the ministers of God: you shall eat the strength of nations, and shall be admired because of their wealth. Thus shall they inherit the land a second time, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head. For I am the Lord Who loveth righteousness, and hateth robberies of injustice; and I will give their labor to the just, and will

make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring in the midst of peoples: every one that sees them shall take notice of them, that they are a seed blessed of God; and with rejoicing shall they rejoice in the Lord.

The Second Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Leviticus (26:3-12, 14-17, 19-24).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Lord spoke to the sons of Israel, saying: If you will walk in My ordinances, and keep My commandments, and do them, then will I give you the rain in its season, and the land shall produce its fruits, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing time shall overtake the vintage, and your vintage shall overtake your seedtime; and you shall eat your bread to the full; and you shall dwell safely upon your land, and war shall not go through your land. And I will give peace in your land, and you shall sleep, and none shall make you afraid; and I will destroy the evil beasts out of your land, and you shall pursue your enemies, and they shall fall before you with slaughter. And five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase tens of thousands; and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. And I will look upon you, and increase you, and multiply you, and establish My covenant with you. And you shall eat that which is old and very old, and bring forth the old to make way for the new. And I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you; and I will walk among you, and be your God, and you shall be My people. But if you will not hearken to Me, nor obey these My ordinances, but disobey them, and your soul should loathe My judgments, so that you should not keep all My commands, so as to break My covenant, then will I do thus to you: I will even bring upon you perplexity, and you shall sow your seeds in vain, and your enemies shall eat your labors. And I will set My face against you, and you shall fall before your enemies, and they that hate you shall pursue you; and you shall flee, no one pursuing you. And if you still refuse to hearken to Me, then will I chasten you yet more even seven times for your sins. And I will break down the haughtiness of your pride; and I will make your heaven iron, and your earth as brass. And your strength shall be in vain; and your land shall not yield its seed, and the tree of your field shall not yield its fruit. And I will send upon you the wild beasts of the land, and they shall devour you, and shall consume your cattle: and I will make you few in number, and your ways shall be desolate. And your habitations shall be desolate, for ye have walked perversely towards Me, and I will walk towards you with a perverse anger. Thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.

The Third Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Though the righteous happen to die, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which stands in length of time, nor that which is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him: so that living among sinners he was translated, Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that

wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness obscures things that are honest, and the wandering of desire undermines the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time. For his soul pleased the Lord: therefore He made haste to take him away from among the wicked. The people saw this, and understood not, neither did they lay this up in their minds, that His grace and mercy is with His saints, and that He has respect unto His chosen.

THE EKTENIA OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us say with our whole soul, and with our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, and for our Archbishop JOSEPH.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, [Names], and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church and (for the departed servants of God, [Names], and) all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Choir: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

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

THE EKTENIA OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

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

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

Choir: Amen.

THE APOSTICHA FOR THE INDICATION

In Tone One

The entry of the year is come, calling us to honor them that make it radiant, even Callista, Evodus and Hermogenes, the kinsmen and contestants; Simeon, the peer of the Angels; Jesus, the son of Navi; the Seven Youths of Ephesus; and the forty-flamed choir of holy women. As we share in their commemoration, O ye feast-lovers, let us earnestly cry out: O Lord, bless the works of Thy hands, and vouchsafe us profitably to pass through the course of the year.

Verse 1. To Thee is due praise, O God, in Zion; and unto Thee shall a vow be rendered in Jerusalem.

O Christ our God, Who hast created all things in wisdom, and hast brought them into being out of nothing, bless the crown of the year and preserve our city from siege. Gladden our faithful hierarchs with Thy power, giving them victory over heresy, and granting the world Great Mercy through the Theotokos.

In Tone Two

Verse 2. We shall be filled with the good things of Thy house.

Wondrous art Thou, O God, and wondrous are Thy works, and Thy ways are past finding out; for Thou art the Wisdom of God, and the perfect Hypostasis and Power, co-beginningless and coeternal with Him in operation; wherefore, without suffering change in Thy Godhead, Thou camest forth ineffably into the world from a mother who knew not man, and with almighty power Thou soughtest after that which Thou hadst made good when Thou didst form it. Thou hast set bounds and seasons for our salvation, O Unchangeable One; for this cause we cry unto Thee: O good Lord, glory be to Thee.

Verse 3. Bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness, O Lord.

O Thou Who hast made all things in wisdom, O Word of the Father Who art from before all eternity, Who hast constituted the whole of creation by Thine almighty word, bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness, and cast down the heresies, though the Theotokos, since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

DOXASTICON OF ST. SIMEON IN TONE FIVE

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

As great Elias had a chariot of fire, so thou, O righteous Father, didst devise a good ladder, whereby thou didst ascend unto the heights. He did not leave behind to others his means of ascent; but thou, even after death, yet possessest thy pillar. O celestial man and terrestrial angel, unsleeping luminary of the whole world, O righteous Simeon, intercede that our souls be saved.

THEOTOKION OF THE INDICTION IN TONE FIVE

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

O King, Who art, and abidest even unto endless ages, receive the supplication of us sinners who ask for salvation; and give abundance unto Thine earth, O Lover of mankind, granting seasonable weather. Be Thou an ally unto our faithful hierarchs against godless heresies, even as of old Thou wast an ally unto David; for they are come into Thy tabernacles, and have defiled Thine all-holy place, O Savior; but do Thou Thyself grant victory, O Christ God, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for Thou art the victory and boast of the Orthodox.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

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

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF THE INDICTION IN TONE TWO

O Thou Creator of the whole universe, Who didst appoint times by Thine own power, bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness, O Lord. Preserve in safety Thy rulers and Thy city, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, and save us.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE

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

For patience thou hast become a pillar, and the ancient fathers thou hast equaled and rivaled. Thou hast rivaled Job in sufferings, Joseph in temptations, and the life of the incorporeals while thou wast in the flesh. Therefore, O our righteous Father Simeon, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE SEVEN

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

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, O haven and intercessor for mankind; for from thee was the Deliverer of the world incarnate; and thou alone art Mother and Virgin, blessed and glorified always. Intercede, therefore, with Christ God, to grant safety to all the universe.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

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

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

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

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

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose Synaxis of her miracle wrought at Miasinae Monastery and the Great Conflagration (fire) which followed we now celebrate—by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and righteous Simeon the Stylite and his mother Martha; the 40 virgin-martyrs and Ammon the deacon in Heraclea; Venerable Euanthia; Righteous Joshua, son of Nun (Jesus of Navi); Meletios the New of Greece; Venerable Nicholas of Crete; New-martyr Angelis of Constantinople; the martyr Aethalas; the martyrs Callista, Evodus and Hermogenes the siblings, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.

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