Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday, March 25th

Service for the Translation of the Relics of Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople (March 13th/26th)

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O 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, Who 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.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 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.

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 for ever 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. But 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, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, 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, and 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  Glory to Thee, O God. ***Thrice****.*

Lord, have mercy. ***Forty 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.

In my distress I cry to the Lord that He may answer me. Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given to you? And what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue? A warrior's sharp arrows with glowing coals of the broom tree. Woe is me, that I sojourn in Meshech that I dwell among the tents of Kedar. Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. I am for peace; but when I speak they are for war. I lift up mine eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord Who made Heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; He Who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He Who keeps Israel, will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever more. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem, built as a city which is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up. The tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the Name of the Lord. There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers." For my brethren and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the House of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou, Who art enthroned in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of a servant look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress. So our eyes look to the Lord our God, ‘til He has mercy on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. If it had not been the Lord Who was on our side, let Israel now say, If it had not been the Lord Who was on our side, when men rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, when their anger was kindled against us; Then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us, the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the Name of the Lord Who made Heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God!

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from this time forth and forever more. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest, upon the land allotted to the righteous. Lest the righteous put forth their hands to do wrong. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good. And to those who are upright in their hearts. But those who turn aside upon their crooked ways. The Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be in Israel. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negev. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. He that goes forth weeping bearing the seeds for sowing. Shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; so He gives to His beloved sleep. Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth; Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Lo, thus shall the man be blest who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel. "Sorely have they afflicted me from my youth," let Israel now say "Sorely have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me. The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows." The Lord is righteous; He has cut the cords of the wicked. May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward. Let them be like the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up, With which the reaper does not fill his hand or the binder of sheaves his bosom, While those who pass by do not say, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you. We bless you in the Name of the Lord."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy. And with Him is plenteous redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever more. Remember, O Lord, in David's favor all the hardships he endured; How he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: "I will not enter my house or get into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." Lo, we heard of it in Ephrathah, we found it in the fields of Ja’ar. "Let us go to His dwelling place; let us worship at His footstool." Arise, O Lord, and go to Thy resting place, Thou and the Ark of Thy might. Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Thy saints shout for joy. For Thy servant David's sake do not turn away the face of Thine anointed one. The Lord swore to David a sure oath / from which He will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep My covenant and My testimonies which I shall teach them, Their sons also forever shall sit upon your throne." For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation: "This is My resting place forever here I will dwell for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy. There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon himself his crown will shed its luster. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, Upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord has commanded the blessing life forever more. Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, Who stand by night in the House of the Lord. Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion, He who made Heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God!

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.

In the 5th Tone: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me.

Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord. \* Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; \* attend to the voice of my supplication, \* when I cry unto Thee. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth \* as incense before Thee, \* the lifting up of my hands \* as an evening sacrifice. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.

For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.

I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.

In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.

Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.

I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.

Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison:  that I may confess Thy name.

The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

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

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

Those who thirst for spiritual blessings

practice their good deeds in secret,

not announcing them in the streets and marketplace,

but keeping them hidden deep within their hearts;

and he who sees all that is done in secret

will reward us for our abstinence.

Let us complete the fast without wearing gloomy faces.

Let us pray without ceasing in the inner chamber of our souls:

“Our Father, who art in heaven,

lead us not into temptation, //

but deliver us from evil!”

In the 1st Tone:

For Thy name’s sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Let us cleanse our souls in the waters of the fast.

Let us approach the precious and most pure Cross of the Lord,

venerating it in faith and drawing forth divine enlightenment,

reaping even now the rich harvest: //

eternal salvation, peace, and great mercy.

In the 1st Tone: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

O Cross, boast of apostles,

surrounded by archangels, powers, and principalities:

Save us from all harm who bow down before you.

Enable us to fulfill the divine course of abstinence; //

and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved!

In the 7th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; \* and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Today, as we bow before the Cross of the Lord, we cry:

“Rejoice, O tree of life, the destroyer of hell!

Rejoice, O joy of the world, the slayer of corruption!

Rejoice, O power that scatters demons!

O invincible weapon, confirmation of the faithful: //

Protect and sanctify those who kiss you.”

In the 1st Tone: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

The streams of your wisdom

were drawn from the spiritual clouds,

that poured forth a fountain of Orthodoxy upon the world.

We the faithful draw forth the sweetness from there

and we turn from the outpourings of heresy //

as from the bitter waters of Marah!

For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

As your pure body lay in the tomb,

it did not in any way decay.

It was found to be whole, O most blessèd Nicephorus!

We bear it forth with zeal and rejoice,

fed by the Orthodox faith, //

and we bless you, O divinely-wise Nicephorus!

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today, he who by nature is unapproachable approaches me.

He who freed me from my passions endures the passion.

The light of the blind is spat upon by lawless lips.

For the sake of the captives he gives his back to scourging.

When the pure virgin mother beheld him on the Cross, she cried out in

pain:

“Woe to me, O my child! What have you done!

Your beauty was fairer than that of any man,

yet now you appear lifeless

without form or comeliness.

Woe to me, O my Light.

I cannot bear to see you sleeping.

My soul is wounded, for a sword has pierced my heart,

and yet I praise your passion.

I bow down before your compassion. //

O long-suffering Lord, glory to you!”

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God.  Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with reverent voices, O Son of God, Giver of life.  Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things!

**Verse**: Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal Son.

Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel, // who alone does wondrous things!

The reading from Genesis: Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. Then he said: “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren.” And he said: “Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant.” And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died. Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: It is good for me to be near my God!

**Verse**: Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart!

It is good for me // to be near my God!

The reading from Proverbs: A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor. Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad. The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray. The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man’s precious possession. In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death. A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence. He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame. Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches. The ransom of a man’s life is his riches, but the poor does not hear rebuke. The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked shall be extinguished.

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 unto the ages.  Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.  Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.  Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes.  Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands.  To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, 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. ***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.

In the 4th Tone:

The fast, the source of blessings,

now has brought us midway through its course.

Having pleased God with the days that have passed,

we look forward to making good use of the days the come,

for growth in blessings brings forth even greater achievements!

While pleasing Christ, the Giver of all blessings, we cry aloud:

“O Lord, who fasted and endured the Cross for our sake,

make us worthy to share blamelessly in your paschal victory,

by living in peace and rightly giving glory to you //

with the Father and the Holy Spirit.”

Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven.  Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement.  Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.

In the 5th Tone: With souls filled with boundless love, O holy martyrs,

you endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,

laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.

By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,

you have been lifted up to heaven,

and now you have boldness before him.

Entreat him to grant peace to the world //

and to our souls great mercy!

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 Virgin Theotokos,

we call you blessèd,

and we faithful magnify you as is meet and right.

O unshakable city and invincible wall, //

O firm intercessor and the refuge of our souls.

Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

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.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O 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, Who 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.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

O Theotokos and Virgin, rejoice! Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb; for thou hast born the Savior of our souls.

(***prostration***)

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

O Baptizer of Christ, keep us all in remembrance, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; for to thee was given grace to intercede for us.

(***prostration***)

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

Plead in our behalf, O holy apostle and all the saints, that we may be delivered from perils and afflictions; for we have acquired you as fervent mediators before the Savior.

(***prostration***)

Beneath thy compassion do we take refuge, O Theotokos; disdain not our supplication in times of affliction; but do thou deliver us from perils, O only pure, O only blessed one.

(***bow from waist***)

Lord have mercy. ***(Forty times)***

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

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. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord bless!

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

O Heavenly King, strengthen Orthodox Christians, establish the Faith, subdue the nations, give peace to the world, keep well this holy city; settle our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and receive us in penitence and confession, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, or idle talk. (***prostration***)

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love, to me Thy servant. (***prostration***)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (***prostration***)

O God, cleanse me, a sinner (***12 times, with a bow from the waist each time***)

Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, or idle talk.

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love, to me Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (***prostration***)

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.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O 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, Who 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.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord have mercy (***12 times***)

O All Holy Trinity, the Consubstantial Dominion, the Indivisible Kingdom, and Cause of every good: Show Thy good will even unto me, the sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away mine every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say: One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore (***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.

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard *him,* And saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! *There is* no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good *thing.*

It is truly meet to bless the, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God (***prostration***)

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.

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, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord bless!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, of our holy fathers, of St Nicephorus the Patriarch of Constantinople, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.