Akathist to Jesus, Light to Those in Darkness

Introduction

Eventually, everyone comes to dwell in darkness. Sooner or later, disaster strikes all the children of men, and we suffer heart-break, loss, bereavement and pain. It may come dramatically with a doctor's announcement, saying that he has some bad news from the test results, or it may come unexpectedly with a visit from a policeman, saying that a loved one was involved in a tragedy. Suffering may come with divorce, or trouble with erring children. It may come as chronic pain from a debilitating disease; it may come as a depression which will not lift. One may suffer a loving friend and support moving away, or one may move away oneself, finding isolation in a strange and bewildering new place. It may come from a broken romance, or loneliness from failure to find a life partner. But eventually, everyone comes to dwell in darkness.

It is just at that time that one needs to turn to Jesus, the one and only Light of the world, and the only rescue for those in the darkness of pain and despair. When one passes through those times of pain which wring the heart, one is called not to *break down* but to *break through*. Just as there is a sound barrier, so there is a kind of praise barrier, and one breaks through the darkness by offering praise to God. Praise at such times is not offered as the fruit of a contented and happy mood. Such praise is not the result of a feeling. It is offered in the teeth of feelings of pain, and in spite of emotional numbness which such feelings of pain can bring.

Such praise is offered to God as a pure act of obedience, as a naked act of the will. It comes from a place deep down, from the heart which lives beneath the daily swirl of feelings. Such acts of praise are acts of defiance, through which we defy the darkness, and confess our faith in God who lives above this vale of tears and who calls us to Himself.

That is why, perhaps, such praise breaks through. When one is able to praise God in such circumstances, one is acknowledging that one is not the Center of the universe, and that one's pain and loss, though personally difficult, have not displaced the cosmos, or changed the faithfulness of God. Like Job looking to God who appeared to him out of the whirlwind, we lift our eyes from ourselves to behold the Lord, and find a whole new perspective and peace. We acknowledge that although our life is temporarily in tatters, God remains on the throne, and He will make it all right—either in this age or the next.

The following Akathist, then, is offered and dedicated to all who sojourn in the darkness, with the prayer that they will use such praises as this to break through. When one is so troubled that one cannot speak (Ps. 77:4), here are some words to speak. For God *is* on the throne, judging righteously, and He makes all things work together for good for those whom He calls, even for those who, just for now, are called to dwell for a time in the dark. Jesus is the Light to those who sojourn there. By His Spirit, we can defy that darkness until He brings us into His glorious light.

-- Archpriest Lawrence R. Farley

Akathist to Jesus, Light to those in Darkness

Kontakion 1 (Tone 7)

Out of the depths of darkness and despair I cry to You, O Lord, You that hung upon the Cross in darkness. From the pit of pain and confusion, I lift up this prayer, and with all my heart I sing aloud to You: Jesus, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Ikos 1 (see Ps. 77)

In the day of my trouble, I seek You, O Lord, and in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying. My eyes find no rest from weeping, and I am so troubled that I cannot speak. Yet as my spirit ponders in the night, I raise this song to You:

JESUS, rescuer of the abandoned!

JESUS, hope of those in despair!

JESUS, guiding star to the lost!

JESUS, joyful return of the exile!

JESUS, unforeseen victory!

JESUS, eternal triumph!

JESUS, radiant dawn after endless night!

JESUS, everlasting light of the Kingdom!

JESUS, wipe away my tears!

JESUS, calm the panic of my heart!

JESUS, exultation of those hemmed in by fear!

JESUS, joy of those crushed by sorrow!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 2 (see Ps. 88)

O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried out to You day and night. My soul is full of troubles and my life has drawn near to Sheol. I lie in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep; my friends and those who love me are removed far from me, and my companions are in darkness. But by Your grace, I defy the darkness, and I declare Your saving help in the land of forgetfulness, crying aloud, Alleluia!

Ikos 2

Sorrow has isolated me from all those around me, and I cannot feel Your love either, O Lord. I walk about in the light like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain who molder in the grave whom You remember no more. But You are the One who performs wonders for the dead, and whose steadfast love is declared in the grave. Trusting in You alone, I make known Your wonders:

JESUS, comforter of the bereaved!

JESUS, consoler of the dying!

JESUS, liberty of the imprisoned and forgotten!

JESUS, companion of the divorced and abandoned!

JESUS, grant peace to a heart in turmoil!

JESUS, work through me to touch others in pain!

JESUS, calmer of storms!

JESUS, haven of the voyager!

JESUS, resurrection for those whose children have died!

JESUS, serenity for those in chronic pain!

JESUS, promise of final triumph!

JESUS, possession of invincible peace!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 3: (see Ps. 143)

The enemy has pursued my soul, O Lord, he has crushed my life to the ground, and I am made to sit in darkness, like those who have been long dead. My spirit within me is overwhelmed by depression, and my heart within is appalled. But I am Your servant, O merciful God, and Your good Spirit will lead me on level paths with renewed strength. Looking to that day, even now I stretch out my hands, crying: Alleluia!

Ikos 3

Despite the attacks of my spiritual foes, I put my trust in You, O Saviour, knowing that You will teach me the way in which I should walk in safety. Though I dwell in parched land, I look to You for the water of life, offering to You such songs as these:

JESUS, shield and buckler!

JESUS, unfailing defense!

JESUS, well-spring in the desert!

JESUS, fountain of the Kingdom!

JESUS, drive away all depression!

JESUS, be my radiance of heart!

JESUS, security in the midst of enemies!

JESUS, hope when all other hope is lost!

JESUS, pledge of eternal gladness!

JESUS, banisher of life's shadows!

JESUS, vindicate my innocence!

JESUS, forgive all my sins!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 4 (see Mt. 15:21:28, Ps. 54)

The Syro-Phoenician woman whose daughter was cruelly demon-possessed shouted after You, O Son of David, only to learn that You were sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Despite Your silence, the faith of this Gentile found Your compassion, and she returned home singing: Alleluia!

Ikos 4

Despite my many and ceaseless supplications, I can find no answer, O Lord, and my heart is too tired to go on. I feel unworthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, and from all sides I find nothing but discouragement. But knowing that You save those who invoke Your Name, O Jesus, and trusting that You will give ear to the words of my mouth, I bow down before You, saying:

JESUS, welcomer of strangers!

JESUS, boast of the saints!

JESUS, save me as I chant Your Name with love!

JESUS, vindicate me as I cling to Your mercy with faith!

JESUS, pardoner of my many offences!

JESUS, healer of my sinful heart!

JESUS, feeder of children!

JESUS, feast of the poor!

JESUS, King who gives strength to the weary!

JESUS, Master who grants deliverance to the oppressed!

JESUS, destroyer of demons!

JESUS, song of the angels!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 5 (see Mk. 10:46-52, Ps. 57)

The blind beggar Bartimaeus thought that You would pass him by, O Saviour, and though many rebuked him, he did not cease to cry, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!" In Your customary lovingkindness, You called him to Yourself and granted him illumination, so that he followed You on the way, singing Alleluia!

Ikos 5

Like a child left alone in the dark, I cry out to You, Son of David, taking refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the storms of destruction pass by. Though my soul is among lions who roar out that there is no salvation for me, my heart is steadfast and I sing these praises:

JESUS, sight for the blind!

JESUS, wealth for the beggar!

JESUS, harbour for those who are bestormed!

JESUS, fortress for all who are besieged!

JESUS, Your glory is above the heavens!

JESUS. Your radiance fills the earth!

JESUS, exaltation of the transcendent Father!

JESUS, bestower of the life-giving Spirit!

JESUS, hear my cry when all others are deaf!

JESUS, call me to Your throne and save me!

JESUS, bottomless ocean of mercy!

JESUS, infinite firmament of truth! JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 6 (see Ps. 42-43)

Like the deer who pants for flowing streams, like the parent who mourns the loss of a child, I am left breathless. Grief grips me, and my tears have been my food day and night. Although all the waves of panic have rolled over me, You remain the help of my countenance, O God, and my song to You in the night remains: Alleluia!

Ikos 6

The joy of Paschal processions around the House of God remains a distant memory, O Lord, and my soul is in despair. All my former faith has been disturbed, so that I say to God my rock, "Why have You forgotten me?" But the Lord will yet command His steadfast love to me, and hoping in His help I praise Him, saying:

JESUS, joy of homecoming for those on earth!

JESUS, long-awaited reunion with all in heaven!

JESUS, dry my bitter tears!

JESUS, restore my forgotten song!

JESUS, light sent out from the luminous Father!

JESUS, truth that leads us to the heavenly altar of God!

JESUS, celebration that lifts the heavy heart!

JESUS, tranquility that calms the troubled mind!

JESUS, return of celebration for the down-cast!

JESUS, restoration of festivity for the weary!

JESUS, You that make the woeful to dance!

JESUS. You that make the depressed to sing!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 7 (see Mk. 5:21-24, 35-43)

The man whose young daughter had just died was in anguish, O Lord, when it seemed that Your coming to save her was too late. But You told him to fear not, but to have faith, and with a simple command You raised the girl from death. Beside himself with joy, the bereaved parent exclaimed, Alleluia!

Ikos 7

Like those whose houses are made desolate by death, my own home is filled with mourning, and I look to the dawning of each new day with fear. But keeping my faith in You, I trample down my fear, and open my mouth with defiance to offer these hymns to You, O Life-giving Lord:

JESUS, vanguisher of hell!

JESUS, giver of resurrection!

JESUS, banish my fear of the future!

JESUS, heal the sorrows of my past!

JESUS, redeem my soul in peace from the battle with my foes!

JESUS, conquer my many spiritual enemies!

JESUS, You that put despair to flight!

JESUS, You that fill the heart with hope!

JESUS, light that no darkness can extinguish!

JESUS, joy that no sorrow can quench!

JESUS, glorious liberty of the children of God!

JESUS, endless song of those raised to new life!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 8 (see Mk. 5:25-34, Ps. 38)

The woman with a hemorrhage suffered for many years, growing only worse for all the money she had spent on physicians. In her uncleanness, she was afraid to approach You, O Lord, and so she secretly touched the hem of Your garment to find healing. But when You found her in the crowd, You took away her fears as well as her disease and dismissed her in peace. When she experienced Your unexpected compassion, her heart leaped up and cried, Alleluia!

Ikos 8

O Lord, there is no soundness in my flesh and my pain is ever with me. My wounds grow foul and fester, and I go about mourning all the day. Though many try to comfort me, I am benumbed, and find only groaning because of the tumult of my heart. But You are not far from me, O my God, and You will make haste to help me. Therefore I open my mouth in praise to the Lord my salvation, saying:

JESUS, health of my bones!

JESUS, promise of my resurrection!

JESUS, unfailing strength!

JESUS, forgiveness of my folly!

JESUS, healing for all who just touch the hem of Your robe!

JESUS, restoration for all who but trust in Your mercy!

JESUS, sudden joy!

JESUS, eternal exultation!

JESUS, hold me up when I am ready to fall!

JESUS, forgive me when my iniquities go over my head!

JESUS, power of my youth!

JESUS, wisdom of my old age!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 9 (see Mk. 5:1-20, Ps. 56)

The Gadarene demoniac was overwhelmed by a legion of demons within, O saving Master, and he dwelt in the deserts of despair, for no human chains were strong enough to restrain his fury. Seeing his Saviour come near, he ran up to Him and bowed down

before Him, imploring deliverance. When You drove out his enemies and drowned his sins in the depths of the sea, he breathed forth a sigh of peace, saying Alleluia!

Ikos 9

My spiritual foes have trampled me to the ground, O Lord my God, for they are many who fight against me. A legion of internal sins fights proudly against me, lurking to trip up my every step. Yet You have seen all my tears, O Christ, and noted all my grief in Your book, and You will deliver my feet from falling so that I may walk before You in the light of life, praising Your word and saying:

JESUS, absolution of the condemned!

JESUS, song of the forgiven!

JESUS, drive away my countless foes!

JESUS, forgive the multitude of my sins!

JESUS, robe of the naked!

JESUS, sanity for the distracted!

JESUS, terror of demons who fly from Your Name!

JESUS, hymn of the angels who draw near to Your love!

JESUS, You that wipe away my tears!

JESUS, You that calm my agitation!

JESUS, You that bring joy to those in the desert!

JESUS, You that restore the exile to his home!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 10 (see Lk. 7:11-17)

The widow whose only son had died was left all alone in the world, abandoned by those who had loved her. When her son was being carried out to burial, the Lord met her and bade her dry her tears. With a word he raised the young man to new life, teaching all there to change their funeral dirge to the song Alleluia!

Ikos 10

O Lord, I am separated from the one who once loved me, and sorrow has estranged me from my friends. I am weary with crying, and my eyes fail while I wait for my God. Emptiness and loneliness crush me every night, and meaninglessness haunts me by day. From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint, lifting up to You these praises:

JESUS, unfailing friend for the abandoned!

JESUS, lover of my soul!

JESUS, serenity for those in the midst of storms!

JESUS, renewed strength for the burdened!

JESUS, fill the emptiness of my heart!

JESUS, use me as the instrument of Your peace!

JESUS, strength for the day of battle!

JESUS, banner of glorious victory!

JESUS, healer of the past!

JESUS, guide for the future!

JESUS, triumphant forgiveness!

JESUS, eternal vindication!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 11 (see Jn. 11:1-44, Ps. 6)

Jesus allowed His beloved friend Lazarus to face the bitterness of death, so that he lay in the tomb for four days, his flesh experiencing corruption. But Christ came into the world to trample down death, and with a mighty cry He summoned Lazarus from the depths, so that the man doomed to death emerged from the tomb to cry: Alleluia!

Ikos 11

That which I greatly feared has come upon me, and death looms before me. My faith in which I trusted is no defense against the cold fear that grips my heart, and every night I flood my bed with tears. But You, O Jesus, are the resurrection and the life, and even in Sheol I will not cease to give You praise:

JESUS, hope of those sentenced to death!

JESUS, resurrection of those who believe in Your word!

JESUS, song that no fear can silence!

JESUS, tranquility that no horror can shake!

JESUS, raise my eyes from death to see Your unfading Kingdom!

JESUS, fill my heart with the promise of Your unending life!

JESUS, radiant glory of those facing death!

JESUS, timeless boast of the martyrs!

JESUS, courage in the face of mortal danger!

JESUS, constancy before continual trial!

JESUS, divine glory, transfiguring the wounded hearts!

JESUS, victory of God, bringing the embattled home!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 12 (see Lk. 22:41-44, Heb. 5:7-9)

With loud cries and tears, O Jesus, You asked that the cup of grief might be removed from You, and sweat from Your holy body fell like drops of blood. Though all Your disciples forsook You and fled, O Christ, You never faltered, but fulfilled the will of the Father until the end. Marveling at Your faithfulness, we who are weak exclaim, Alleluia!

Ikos 12

For the sake of us men and for our salvation, O Son of God, You hung upon the Cross. Though You cried out that God had forsaken You, in obedience You drained the cup of suffering to its very dregs. Though all those around You jeered at You and blasphemed, You committed Your spirit into the Father's hands and died in the darkness. Struck with awe at this mystery, we sinners cry from the depths of our souls:

JESUS, Lamb whose meekness is stronger than the world!

JESUS, Sacrifice whose Blood washes clean the whole earth!

JESUS, rejected by men, obedient to the death of the Cross!

JESUS, King of the ages, ruling from the heavenly throne!

JESUS, keep me from failing in the hour of trial!

JESUS, strengthen me for the impending battle!

JESUS, whose death on the Tree tramples down my mortality!

JESUS, whose lifting up on the Cross casts down the ruler of this age!

JESUS, everlasting Pascha and power of God!

JESUS, universal Kingdom given to us sinners!

JESUS, light of the despairing children of the earth!

JESUS, light of the triumphant saints in glory!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Kontakion 13 (said thrice)

O Jesus our Lord, God and Saviour, in Your word alone we put our trust. Though suffering and agitation fill our minds, we reach up through the darkness to seize Your hand and receive Your mercy. Be our joy and peace as we pass through this terrible valley, and carry us through when our strength fails that we may sing to You through the ages, Alleluia!

And again,

Ikos 1

In the day of my trouble, I seek You, O Lord, and in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying. My eyes find no rest from weeping, and I am so troubled that I cannot speak. Yet as my spirit ponders in the night, I raise this song to You:

JESUS, rescuer of the abandoned!

JESUS, hope of those in despair!

JESUS, guiding star to the lost!

JESUS, joyful return of the exile!

JESUS, unforeseen victory!

JESUS, eternal triumph!

JESUS, radiant dawn after endless night!

JESUS, everlasting light of the Kingdom!

JESUS, wipe away my tears!

JESUS, calm the panic of my heart!

JESUS, exultation of those hemmed in by fear!

JESUS, joy of those crushed by sorrow!

JESUS, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Then:

Kontakion 1 (Tone 7):

Out of the depths of darkness and despair I cry to You, O Lord, You that hung upon the Cross in darkness. From the pit of pain and confusion, I lift up this prayer, and with all my heart I sing aloud to You: Jesus, light to those in darkness, glory to You!

Prayer:

O Jesus our King, have mercy on us as we struggle, and receive our songs as a fragrant offering and a sweet-smelling sacrifice. In all our turmoil, emptiness and suffering, we turn to You, praising You for Your great glory. Lift us up as a father lifts up his little child, and bring us through this season of darkness and pain into Your marvelous light. Resolve our distresses as You will, according to Your great wisdom and love. We accept all that comes from Your merciful hand, and ask that You grant us to do Your will. Thus strengthened to walk in a way that is pleasing to You, to our last breath we never cease to praise Your most holy Name, together with that of Your Father who has no beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Service of the Small Paraklesis

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

People: Amen.

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

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

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.

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.

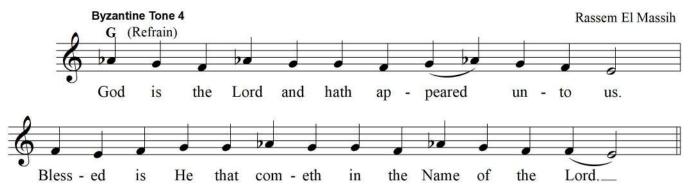
O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no

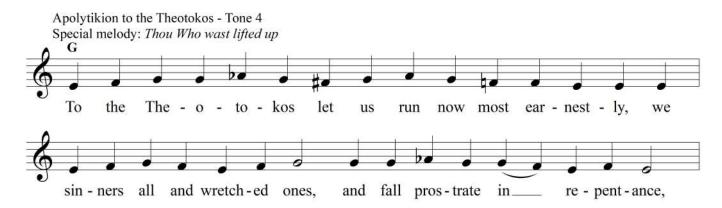
man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works,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

"GOD IS THE LORD" IN TONE FOUR

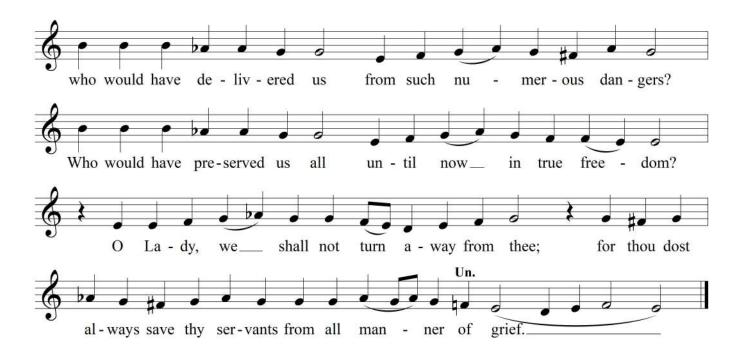


- Verse 1. O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (Refrain)
- Verse 2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (Refrain)
- Verse 3. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (Refrain)

APOLYTIKIA AND THEOTOKION







PSALM 50

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

THE LITTLE SUPPLICATORY CANON IN TONE EIGHT

(NOTE: We do not chant the heirmoi as listed at the start of each ode, but they are included here to set the melody pattern for the subsequent troparia. We begin with "Most holy Theotokos, save us.")

Ode One

(Heirmos) Traversing the water as on dry land, * and thereby escaping * from the toils of Egypt's land, * the Israelites cried aloud, proclaiming: * unto our God and Redeemer, let us now sing.







Ode Three

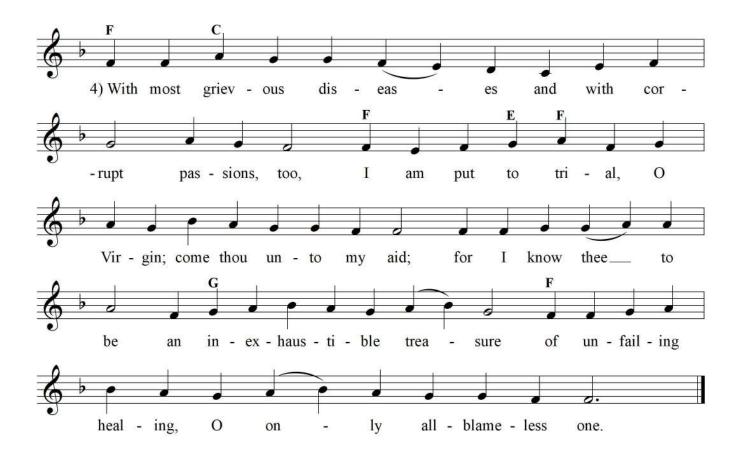
(Heirmos) Of the vault of the heavens art Thou, O Lord, Fashioner; * so, too, of the Church art Thou Founder. * Do Thou establish me * in unfeigned love for Thee, * Who art the Height of things sought for, * and staff of the faithful, O Thou only Friend of man.











TROPARIA AFTER THE THIRD ODE IN TONE EIGHT



LITANY

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.

The Commemorations - Tone 4





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

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

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

and for 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, all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community, the parishioners and benefactors of this holy temple, and all that serve, sing, labor and gather herein; and for the servants of God [Names], and for the suffering Christians of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, all of the Middle East (add any other nations that may be appropriate) and for the forgiveness

of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

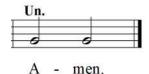
People: Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe

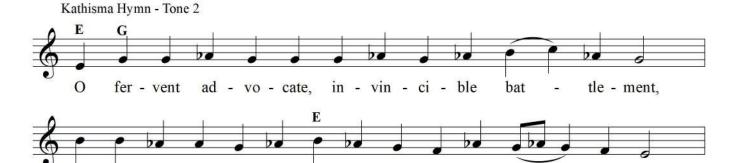
glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and

unto ages of ages.

People:



KATHISMA IN TONE TWO



re - treat

for.

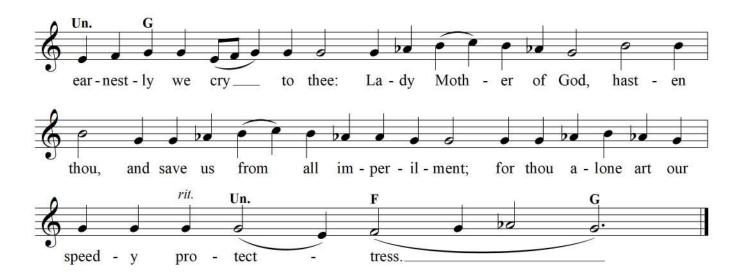
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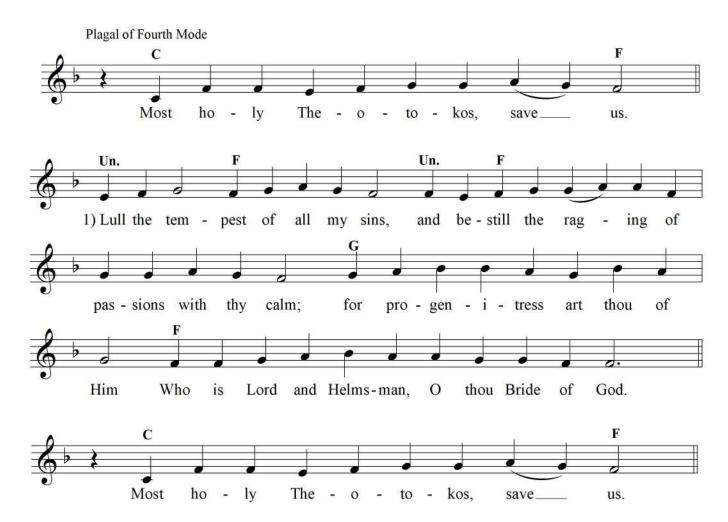
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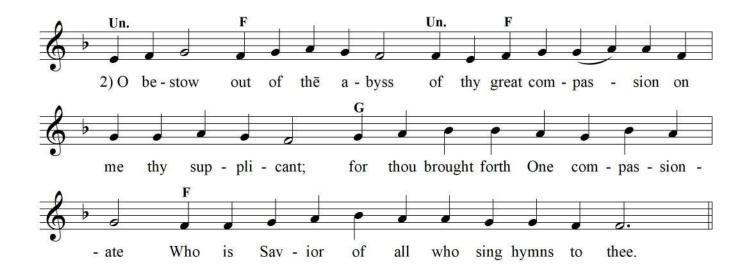
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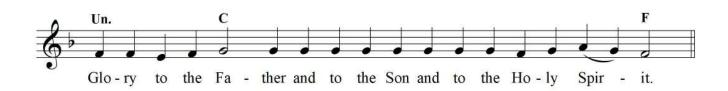


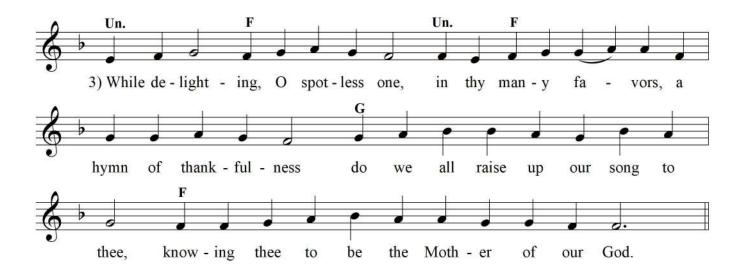
THE LITTLE SUPPLICATORY CANON (CONTINUED) IN TONE EIGHT Ode Four

(Heirmos) 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.

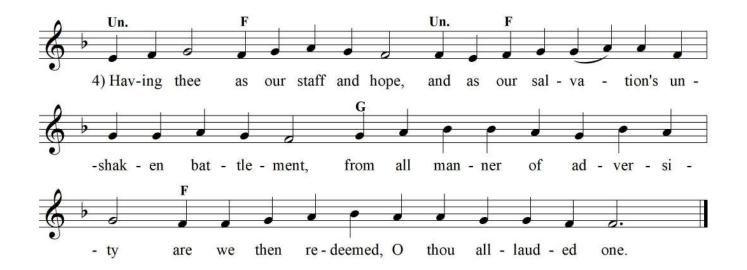








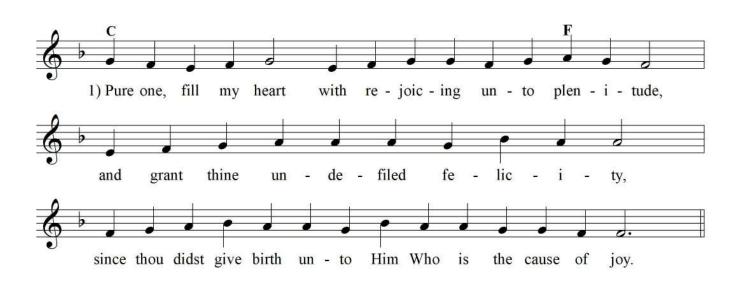




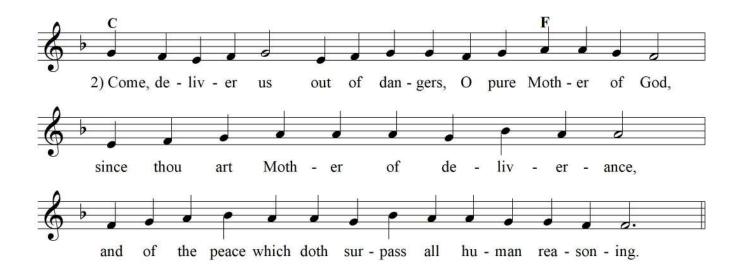
Ode Five

(Heirmos) Lord, enlighten us * by Thy precepts and by Thy commands; * and by the power of Thy lofty arm * bestow Thy peace upon us all, since Thou art Friend of man.

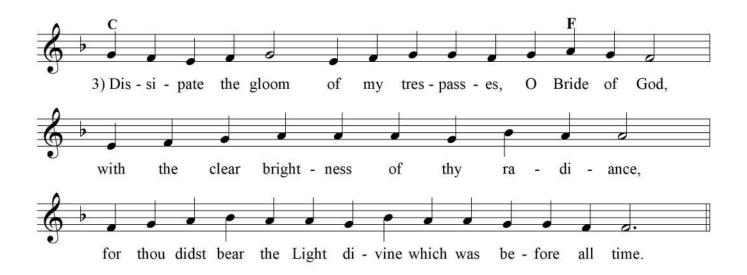




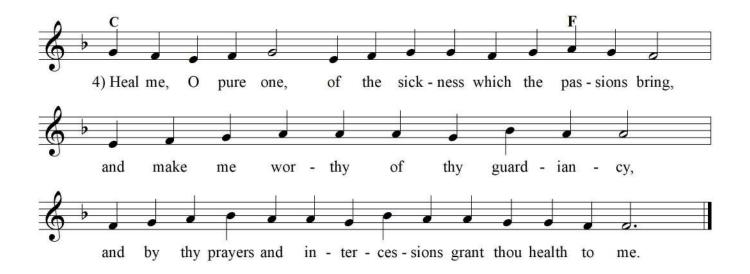












Ode Six

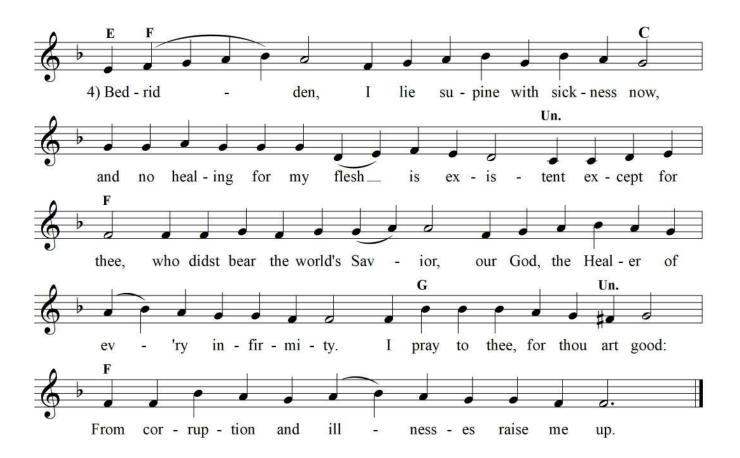
(Heirmos) Entreaty do I pour forth unto the Lord, * and to Him do I proclaim all my sorrows, * for many woes fill my soul to repletion, * and lo, my life unto Hades hath now drawn nigh. * Like Jonah do I pray to Thee: * Raise me up from corruption, O Lord, my God.











TROPARIA AFTER THE SIXTH ODE IN TONE EIGHT



LITANY

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.



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

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

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

and for 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, all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community, the parishioners and benefactors of this holy temple, and all that serve, sing, labor and gather herein; and for the servants of God [Names], and for the suffering Christians of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, all of the Middle East (add any other nations that may be appropriate) and for the forgiveness

of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe

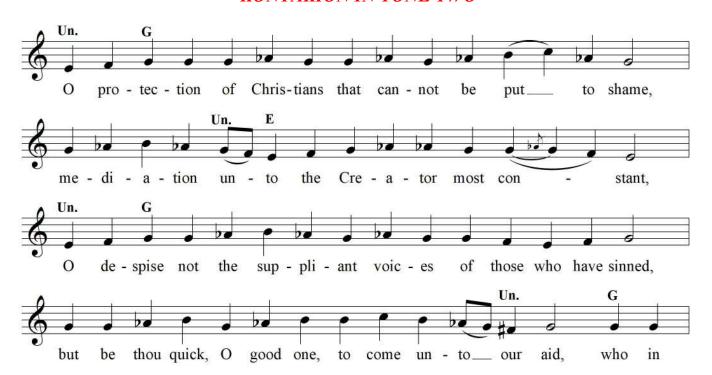
glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and

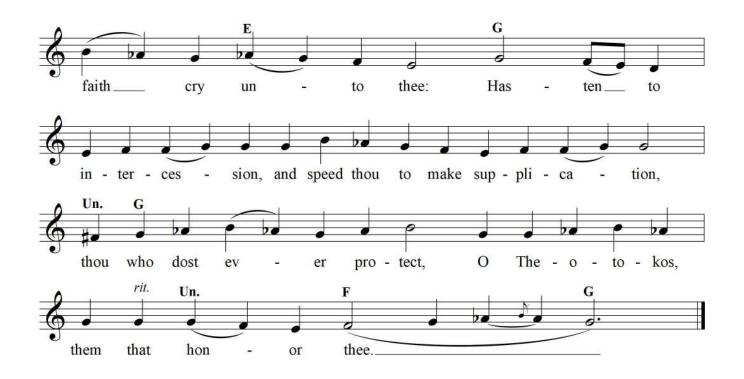
unto ages of ages.

People:

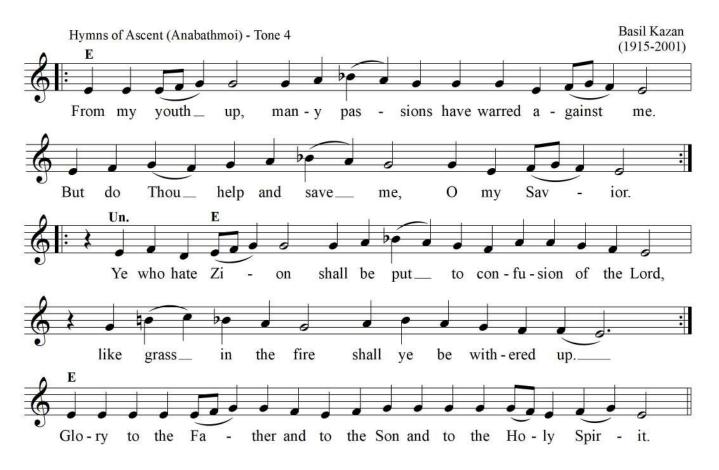
A - men.

KONTAKION IN TONE TWO



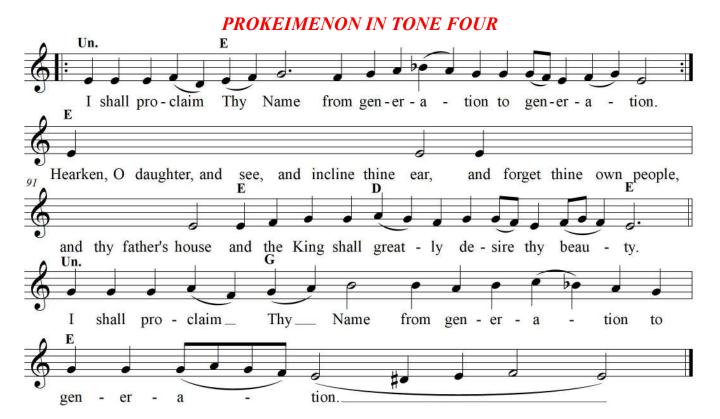


ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR





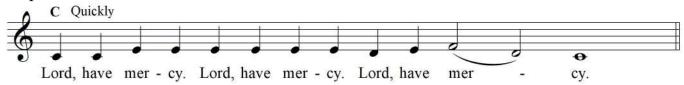
The priest dons his phelonion.



GOSPEL READING

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

People:



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

People:



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





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 Zachariah 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 art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of thy 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.

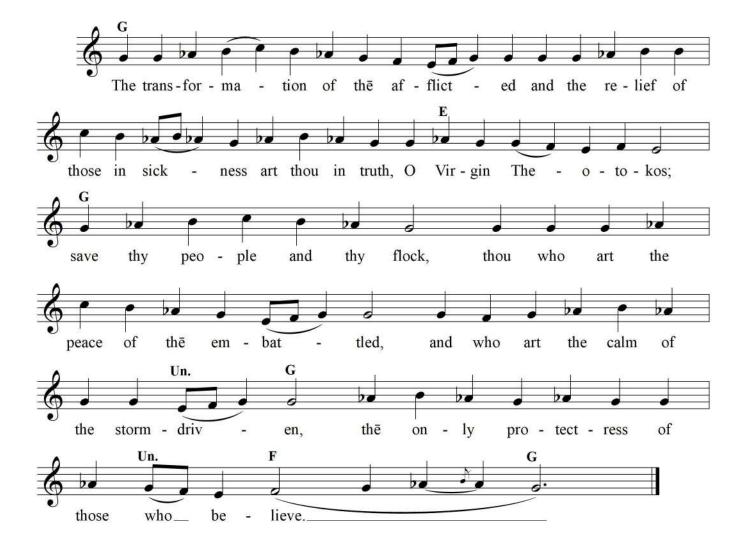
People:



TROPARIA IN TONE TWO







THE INTERCESSION (WITH ANTIOCHIAN AND AMERICAN SAINTS)

Priest: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and compassions. Exalt the horn 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 Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and all the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, and his righteous parents Zachariah and Elizabeth; of the holy, glorious prophets: Moses and Aaron, Elias and Elisseus, David and Jesse, the Three Holy Children Sedrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel the "man of desires;" Simeon the God-receiver and the Prophetess Anna; and of all the holy prophets;
- + of the holy, glorious, all-laudable Apostles Peter and Paul, the patrons and protectors of the Church of Antioch, the Twelve, the Seventy, and of all the holy apostles and equals-to-the-apostles, especially Constantine and Helen;

+ of our fathers among the Saints, great Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas the wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon, the wonderworker, Bishop of Trimythous, Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem, Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch, Nektarios the wonderworker, Bishop of Pentapolis, Theodore, Bishop of Edessa; Nicholai of Zhicha, who labored in America; Innocent, metropolitan of Moscow and Jacob Netsvetov, Evangelizers of Alaska, and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow, Enlighteners of North America; Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre; John, Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco, and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn;

+ of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-Martyrs: George the Trophy-Bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the soldier, Theodore the General, Stephen the Archdeacon and First-Martyr, James the Persian, and Menas the wonderworker;

+ of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Hieromartyrs: Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos of Magnesia, Eleutherios of Illyricum, Polycarp of Smyrna, Peter of Damascus, Cyprian of Antioch, the former magician, Milos of Babylon; Habib, Gurias and Samonas of Edessa; Juvenaly of Iliamna, John Kochurov and Alexander Hotovitzky, who labored in America; Ananias of "the Seventy" of Damascus, Jacob of Hamatoura, and Joseph of Damascus;

+ of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious Martyrs: the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia, Sergius and Amphian of Beirut, Trophimos, Savatios and Dorymedon of Antioch, Artemios of Antioch, Thomas of Antioch, Peter of Bosra, the children Asterios, Claudios, Neon, and Neonilla of Cilicia, Galaktion and Epistimia of Homs, Romanos of Antioch, Silvanos, Luke and Makios of Homs, Joseph the New Martyr of Aleppo, Cyril the Deacon of Baalbek, Julitta and her son Kyriakos of Iconium, Andrew the General of Syria; Antony of Damascus, Thomas of Damascus, Victor of Damascus; Sergios and Bacchos of Syria, and Peter the Aleut;

+ of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious women Martyrs: the Forty Holy Martyrs at Heraclea, Great-Martyrs Thekla the First-Martyr, Barbara of Baalbek, Anastasia of Rome, Katherine of Alexandria, Kyriaki of Nicomedia, Photeini the Samaritan Woman and her sisters Anatole, Photo, Photis, Paraskeve, and Kyriake; Marina of Antioch in Pisidia, Paraskeva of Rome, Anastasia of Rome the "deliverer from potions," Irene of Thessalonica, Irene of the Balkans; Sophia and Irene of Egypt; Paraskeva of Iconium, Tatiana of Rome, Fevronia of Mesopotamia, Evdokia the Penitent of Baalbek, Pelagia of Antioch, Pelagia of Tarsus, Vevaia of Edessa, Basilissa and Anastasia of Rome, disciples of Peter and Paul; Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope and Love of Rome; Leonilla and her grandchildren and companions in Cappadocia; Domnina and her children Berina and Prosdoki of Edessa; Bassa of Edessa; Theodora of Tyre, Theodosia of Tyre, Christina of Tyre; Domnina of Anazarbus; Virgin-martyrs Lucy of Syracuse and Lucy of Campania;

Lucy of Rome; Lucy, Cyprilla, and Aroa of Libya; Thomaïs of Alexandria; and Akylina of Byblos;

+ of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers who shone in the ascetic life: Anthony the Great, Euthymios the Great, Arsenios the Great, Savvas the Sanctified, Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians, Makarios, Pakhomios and Paisios the Greats of Egypt; Simeon the Stylite, Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain, Daniel the Stylite, Alexios the Man of God, Theodosios the head of monasteries, John of Damascus, Cosmas the Hymnographer of Maïuma, Andrew of Crete, Romanos the Melodist, Maximos the Confessor, Mark the Anchorite, John Cassian the Roman, Simeon the New Theologian; Onouphrios of Egypt; Peter, Athanasius, Paul and Paisios the New of Mount Athos, Maron of Cyrrhus in Syria, John of Edessa, Simeon of Homs (Emesa), the Fool-for-Christ, Thomas of Syria, the Fool-for-Christ; Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska;

+ of our venerable and God-bearing Mothers Mary Magdalene; Mary, the wife of Cleopas; Joanna the wife of Chuza; Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee; Susanna; and Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, and all the holy Myrrh-bearing women; Right-believing Tamara, queen of Georgia; Olga, princess of Kiev and equal-to-the-apostles; of the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom); and Macrina, the sister of Basil the Great;

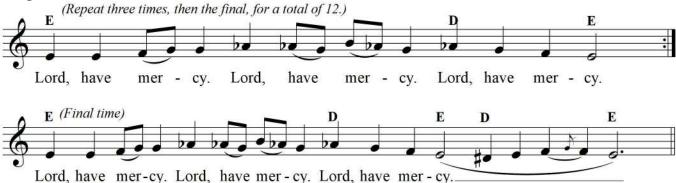
+ of our venerable and God-bearing Mothers who shone in the ascetic life: Mary of Egypt, Pelagia the Penitent, Thaïs of Egypt, Kyra of Syria, Domnina of Syria, Marana of Veria, Publia the Confessor of Antioch, Anastasia the Patrician of Alexandria, Martha the mother of Simeon the Stylite; Xenia of Rome and Xenia of St. Petersburg the Fool-for-Christ; Paraskeva the New of the Balkans; Thomaïs of Lesbos the wonderworker; and Pansemne of Antioch;

+ of the holy Unmercenaries and Healers: Panteleimon the Great-Martyr, Hermolaos the Hieromartyr, Cosmos and Damian of Asia, Cosmos and Damian of Rome, Cyrus and John of Arabia, Julian of Homs, and Anthimos of Arabia;

+ of (Saints Ns., other holy ones of local devotion),

+ of (Saint N.), the patron and protector of this holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Joseph the Betrothed and James the Brother of God; 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.





Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-

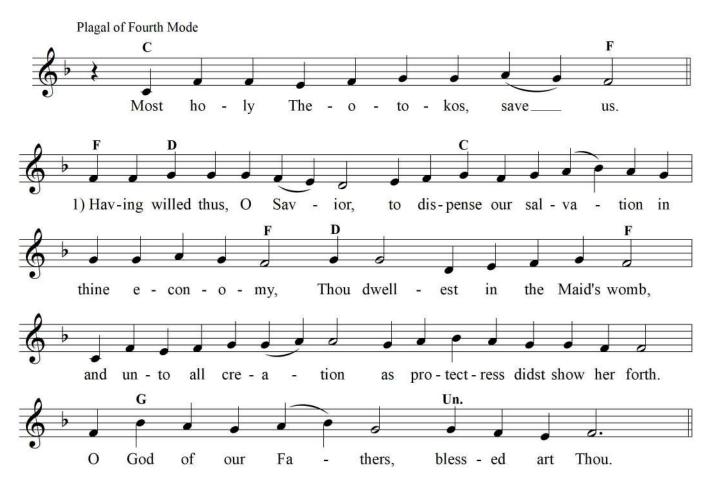
begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-Holy,

and good, and Life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

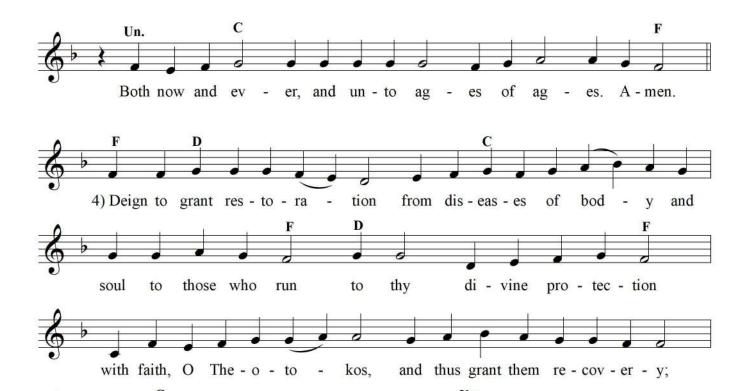
People: Amen.

THE LITTLE SUPPLICATORY CANON (CONTINUED) IN TONE EIGHT Ode 7

(Heirmos) 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.







Ode 8

our

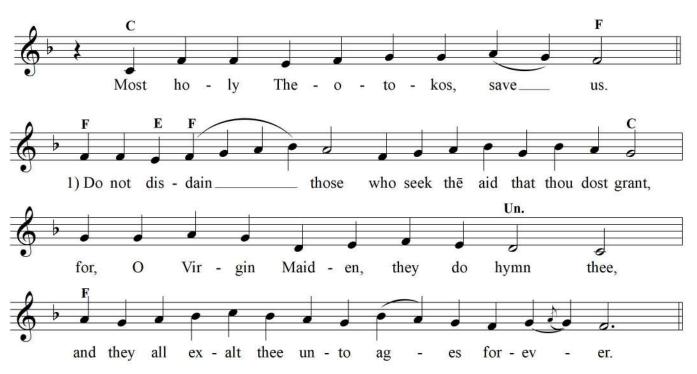
Sav - ior

art

thou.

Christ__

(Heirmos) 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.

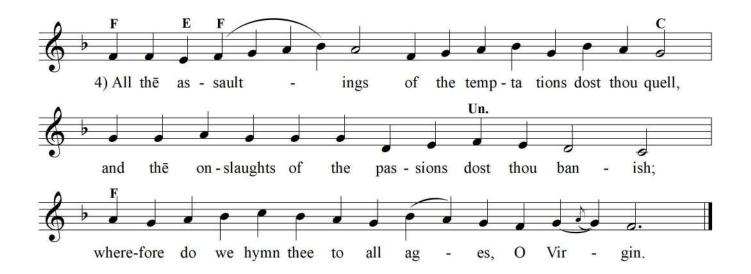


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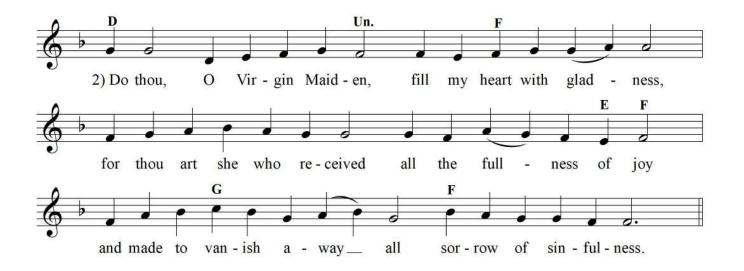


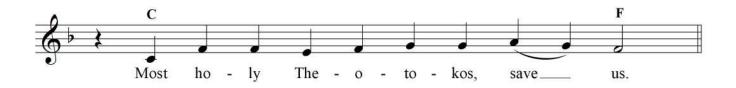


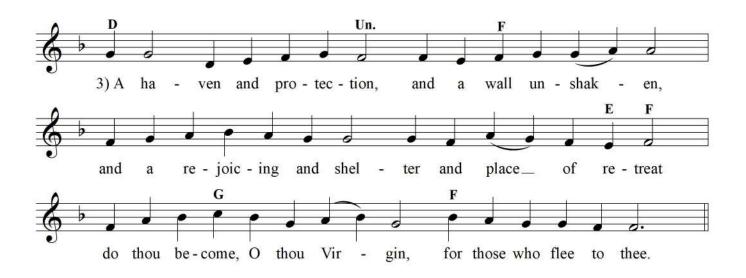
Ode 9

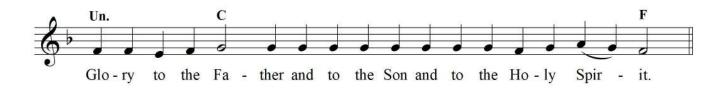
(Heirmos) Most rightly we confess thee * as our God's birthgiver, * we who through thee have been saved, O thou Virgin most pure. * With choirs of bodiless angels, * thee do we magnify.









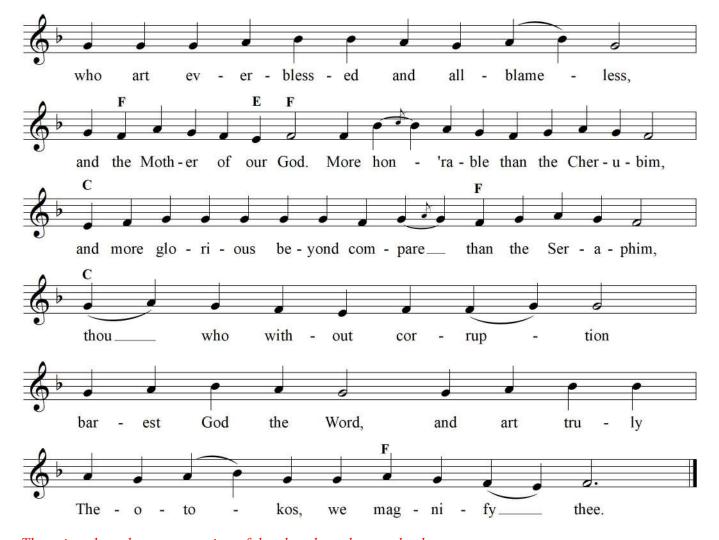




The priest censes the icon of the Theotokos at the center of the church as the people chant:

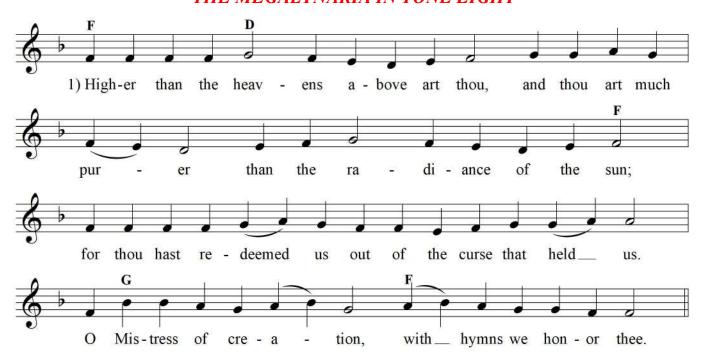
THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT





The priest does the great censing of the church as the people chant:

THE MEGALYNARIA IN TONE EIGHT





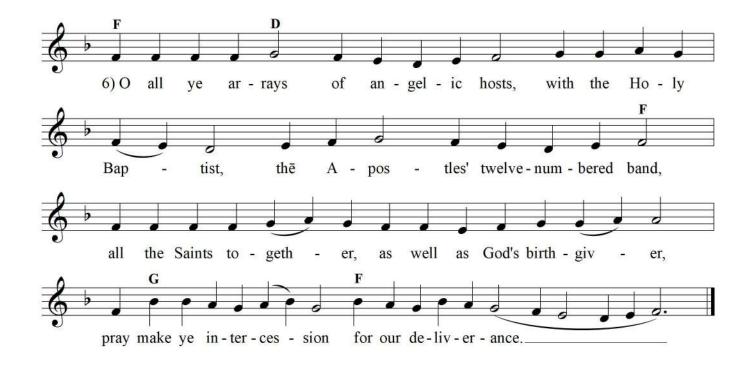
39



Here, chant the megalynarion of the church temple as provided in the Paraklesis supplement, which can be found on this website:

http://ww1.antiochian.org/sites/default/files/megalynaria-paraklesis-drsam.pdf

If you do not find it there, contact the Department of Liturgics.



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.

People: Amen.

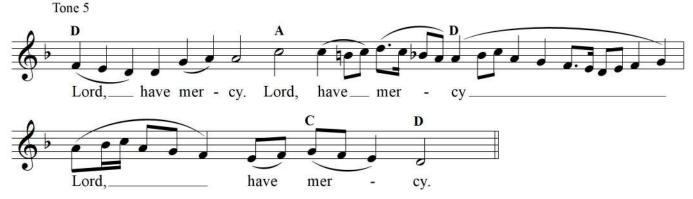
FINAL LITANY

Censing the Icon of the Theotokos, the Priest says:

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy, we pray Thee,

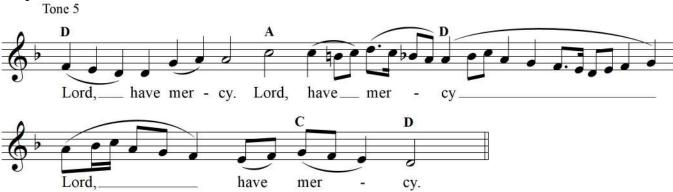
hearken and have mercy.

People:



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

People:



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

and for 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 forgiveness of sins for the servants of God [Names], the parishioners, members of the parish council and organizations, donors and benefactors of this holy temple, and for the suffering Christians of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, and all of the Middle East (add any other

nations that may be appropriate).

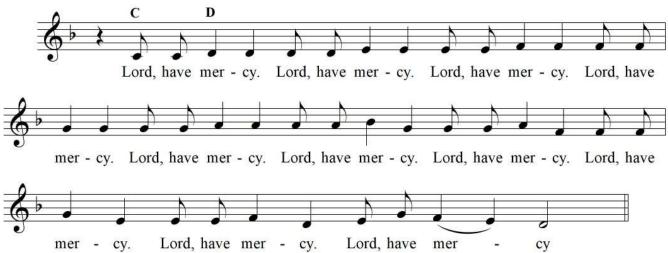
People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest:

Again we pray that He may keep this holy church and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, Who lovest mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impendeth on us, and have mercy upon us.

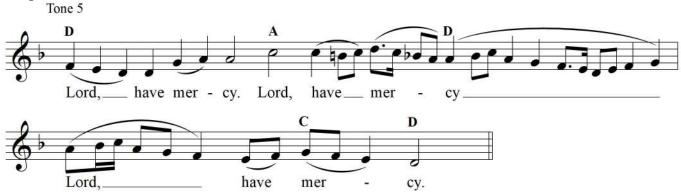
People: Lord, have mercy. (FORTY TIMES, sung as follows)

Repeat 4 times, quickly, when singing 40 LHMs.



Priest: Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us.





Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, *be gracious*, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy upon us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People:



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 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, (insert appropriate characteristic phrase) through

the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless Holy Mother; (insert appropriate daily commemoration); of Saint N., 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.

People: Amen.

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

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have

mercy upon us and save us.

People: Amen.

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