

The Sacrament of Holy Unction

Holy Wednesday Evening

Lifting his orarion with the three fingers of his right hand, the deacon says aloud:

Bless, master.

The priest kisses the gospel book, lifts it up with both hands, and lowers it making with it the sign of the cross and saying with the fear of God:

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

Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: 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. O Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

daily¹ 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.²

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. *(12 times)*

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. *(Reverence)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. *(Reverence)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God. *(Reverence)*

Then, the following Psalm:

Psalm 143 <142>

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications in
thy faithfulness;
answer me in thy righteousness.
Enter not into judgment with thy servant,
for no one living is righteous before thee.
For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those
who have been long dead.

¹Or, "living".

²Or, "the evil one."

Therefore, my spirit was grieved within me;
my heart within me was troubled.

I remembered the days of the old,
I meditated on all thy deeds,
I meditated on the works of thine hands.
I stretched out my hands unto thee;
my soul thirsts for thee like a dry land.

Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit has failed.
Hide not thy face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down
into the Pit.
Let me hear of thy mercy in the morning,
for in thee have I put my hope.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to thee have I lifted up my soul.
Save me, O Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to thee for refuge.
Teach me to do thy will,
for thou art my God.
Let thy good Spirit lead me in a straight path.

For thy name's sake, O Lord,
give life to me.
In thy righteousness bring my soul
out of affliction.
In thy mercy thou destroyest my enemies and
dissolvest all my adversaries,
for I am thy servant.

The Little Litany

N: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

: Lord, have mercy.

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

: Lord, have mercy.

N: 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.

: To thee, O Lord.

: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

: Amen.

Eighth Tone

CHOIR: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Verse: "O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, or discipline me in thy wrath."³

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Verse: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak."⁴

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Troparia, Sixth Tone

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for, deprived of all defense, we sinners offer this supplication unto thee, as Master: have mercy on us.

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

³(Ps 38<37>:1).

⁴(Ps. 6:2).

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for in thee we trust;⁵ do not be exceedingly angry with us, nor remember our iniquities. But even now, look favorably upon us, as the compassionate one; and deliver us from our enemies; for thou art our God, and we art thy people; we are the work of thine hands, and we call upon thy name.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Open to us, O Blessed Theotokos, the door of compassion. Setting our hope in thee, we will not go astray. Through thee, may we be delivered from all adverse circumstances, for thou art the salvation of the Christian people.

Psalm 51<50>

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to thy great mercy,
according to the multitude of thy compassions,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in thy sight,
so that thou art justified in thy sentences,
and prevailest when thou passest judgment.

For indeed, I was conceived in iniquities,
and in sins did my mother conceive me.

For behold: thou lovest truth,
thou hast made known to me the secret
and hidden things of thy wisdom.

Sprinkle me with hyssop,
and I shall be clean,

⁵(Ps. 25<24>:2).

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness,
then the afflicted bones shall rejoice.

Turn away thy face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and put 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 uphold me with a directing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors thy ways,
and sinners will return to thee.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God of my salvation,
and my tongue will joyfully
sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips;
and my mouth will declare thy praise;
for hast thou delighted in sacrifice,
I would have given it;
But thou delighest not in burnt offering.
The sacrifice to God is a broken
Spirit, a broken and contrite heart,
O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure to Zion,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;
then thou wilt delight in a sacrifice of righteousness,
in offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then they will offer bulls upon thine altar.

The Canon, Fourth Tone

First Ode (Irmos)

CHOIR: When Israel of old had passed through the Red Sea's depth with dry feet, through the stretching forth of Moses' hand in the form of a Cross, they overthrew the Amelekites in the wilderness.

O Master, thou always makest the souls and bodies of mortals glad with the oil of compassion, protecting the faithful by oil: Have compassion, now, through oil, on those who approach thee.

O Lord Christ, have mercy upon thy servants.

O Master, the whole earth is filled with thy mercy: Therefore, we, who are mystically anointed with the divine oil today, implore thee with faith to bestow on us thine incomprehensible mercy.

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

Having compassion on thy sick servants, O lover of mankind, thou hast commanded thy disciples to perform thy holy unction on them. By thy seal have mercy on us all through their prayers.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O only pure one, sea of peace, overflowing in riches; by thy constant intercession with God, deliver thy servants from illnesses and afflictions, so that we may unceasingly magnify thee.

Third Ode

O Christ, thy Church rejoices in thee crying aloud: Thou art my strength, the Lord is my fortress, and my refuge⁶.

O Christ, thou alone art marvelous and merciful to the faithful; grant from on high thy grace unto those who are gravely ill.

O Lord Christ, have mercy upon thy servants.

O Lord, by thy dispensation thou once showed forth an olive-branch to be the ending of the flood: Save thine afflicted people by thy mercy.

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

O Christ, in thy mercy, with the torch of divine light, make thou glad those who faithfully and eagerly now seek thy mercy through this unction.

⁶(Ps. 18: 1-2).

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Favorably look down from on high, O Mother of the Creator of mankind, and by thy prayers save those who are bitterly afflicted with severe suffering.

Sessional Hymn, Eighth Tone

O merciful one, what a divine river of mercy thou art! What a boundless source of great compassion thou art! Show forth the divine streams of thy mercy, and heal all mankind. Gush forth abundantly the fountains of wonders; for ever turning to thee with fervor, we implore thy grace.

Sessional Hymn, Fourth Tone

Physician and Helper of those who are suffering, O Deliverer and Savior of the sick, O Master and Lord of all, heal thy sick servants, have compassion and mercy on those who have fallen into grave sins, and deliver them from their transgressions, so that they may glorify thy divine power.

Fourth Ode

Beholding thee, O Sun of righteousness, uplifted on the Cross, the Church gloriously stands crying, as it is proper: O Lord, Glory to thy might.

O Savior who emptied thyself in grace and purified the world, thou art like an imperishable chrism; with thy divine pledge, have compassion and mercy on those whose wounded flesh will be anointed.

O Lord Christ, have mercy on thy servants.

Having now signed the bodily senses of thy servants with the seal of the joy of thy mercy, O Master, render them inviolate and impenetrable to all adverse powers.

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

Thou hast commanded the godly priests to summon the sick, that by their prayers, and anointing with the Holy Oil they might be healed. By thy mercy, O lover of mankind, save those who are sick.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O ever-virgin, most holy Theotokos, my steadfast shelter and my protector, my haven and fortress, my ladder of ascent into heaven and bulwark, have compassion and mercy on us who have sought refuge in thee alone.

Fifth Ode

Being the Light, O my Lord, thou became a light to the World, a Holy Light that delivers from the darkness of ignorance those who in faith sing praises to thee.

O Good and Merciful One, thou art the depth of mercy. By thy Holy Oil, have mercy, on the sick, for thou lovest mankind.

O Lord Christ, have mercy on thy servants.

O Christ, by the seal of thy divine imprint, thou hast sanctified both our souls and bodies in an inexpressible manner from on high. Heal us all by thy hand.

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

Most gracious Lord, through thy ineffable love, thou didst accept the anointing with myrrh by the harlot, have compassion on thy servants.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O all-praised and all-gracious Lady have mercy on those now to be anointed with Divine Oil, and save thy servants.

Sixth Ode

O Lord, with a voice of thanksgiving, I offer a sacrifice to thee. The Church cries aloud to thee, for she has been purified from the blood of evil ones by the Blood which, for mercy's sake, gushed from thy side.

O Lover of mankind, thou hast shown through oil the Chrism for Kings, and by thy seal performed it at the hands of High priests: By thy compassion save also those who endure suffering.

O Lord Christ, have mercy on thy servants.

Let no bitter demons lay hold on those who participate in godly anointment and whose senses are touched with it; and surround them, O Savior, with the protection of thy Glory.

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

O Savior and Lover of mankind, stretch forth thy hand from on High, and consecrate this Oil, and bestow it on thy servants for healing and relief from all their maladies.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Mother of the Creator, thou hast manifested thyself a fruitful olive-tree. In thy divine offspring, and by thee, the world is seen to be filled with mercy. Therefore, by thy touch, save the sick through thine intercessions.

The Kontakion, Second Tone

O Compassionate One, thou art the fountain of mercy and supremely good. Deliver from every affliction those who with fervent faith fall down before thine inexpressible mercy. Put an end to their illnesses, bestowing on them thy divine grace from on High.

Seventh Ode

The Children of Abraham in the Persian furnace, fired by love of godliness, rather than by the flame, cried aloud: Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the Tabernacle of thy Glory.

O only Savior and God, in thy mercy and compassions, thou healest both the passions of the soul and the afflictions of the body: Heal those who are suffering illnesses.

O Lord Christ, have mercy on thy servants.

When the heads of all are anointed with the Oil of Unction, grant with it, O Lord, by the abundance of thy mercy the joy of gladness and salvation, to those who are asking for thy mercy.

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

O savior, thy seal, by the prayers of the priests, is a sword against demons and a fire that destroys the passions of the soul. Therefore, we who have received healing praise thee in faith.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In a divine manner, thou hast conceived in thy womb, O Mother of God, the One who holds fast all things in the hollow of his hand; and ineffably thou hast given him a body. Relieve the suffering of the sick, we implore thee.

Eighth Ode

When Daniel stretched forth his hand, he stopped the gaping mouths of the Lions in the pit. The Holy young men being zealous in their piety girded themselves with virtues and quenched the raging fire as they cried aloud: "O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord."

Have mercy on all, O Savior, according to thy great and divine mercy, for this figure was mystically foreshadowed for us. We administer anointing by the Holy Oil for those who are suffering. Heal them all by thy power.

O Lord Christ, have mercy on thy servants.

In the streams of thy mercy, O compassionate Lord, and through anointing by the priests, wash away the sorrow, the wounds and the attacks, of those who are afflicted by the intensity of illness, so that by thy cleansing they may obtain bodily health and strength.

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

The mark of divine help and the oil of gladness will come down from on high upon us who are marked by it. O Master, do not withhold thy mercy, neither despise those who with faith ceaselessly cry aloud: "O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord."

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O pure one, nature has accepted thy divine birth-giving as a glorious crown which subdued the armies of the enemies and conquered them with might. Therefore, crowned with the joyful splendor of thy grace, we praise thee, O Lady worthy of all-praise.

Ninth Ode

The cornerstone that had not been hewn by hand was hewn from thee, O Virgin, the unquarried Mount: Christ himself, who has bound together nature that had been divided. Therefore, rejoicing, we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Look down from heaven, O merciful One, and show forth thy mercy on all mankind. Grant now thy help and thy strength to those who draw near to thee through Divine Unction administered by thy priests, O Lover of mankind.

O Lord Christ, have mercy on thy servants.

O most benevolent Savior, let us rejoice at beholding the godly Oil. By thy divine condensation thou imparted it to the participants as a sign of sacred cleansing.

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

O Savior, have mercy and compassion upon thy servants; deliver their souls and bodies from terrible sufferings and pains; rescue them from the arrows of the evil one, healing them by thy Divine Grace, inasmuch as thou art a merciful Lord.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

As thou receivest the praises and petitions of thy servants, O Virgin, by thy prayers deliver from bitter afflictions and sufferings those who through us flee to thy divine protection.

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

The Little Litany

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

To thee, O Lord.

For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee they give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Exapostelation, Third Tone

In mercy, O Good One, look down favorably upon our petitions; for we have come together in thy holy temple, to anoint with divine Oil thy sick servants.

The Praises, Fourth Tone

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights! To thee, O God, is due our song.

Praise him all his angels; praise him all his hosts! To thee, O God, is due our song.

The Praises are sung along with the following verses:

Verse: To execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory to all his faithful ones.⁷

O lover of mankind, easy to reconcile, through thine apostles, thou hast given thy grace: heal with thy Holy Oil the wounds and illnesses of all mankind. Therefore, O compassionate One, sanctify those who now with faith approach thy holy Oil: have mercy on them, cleanse them from every infirmity, and make them worthy of thine imperishable bliss.

⁷(Ps.149:9).

Verse: Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his firmament of his power.⁸

Look down from heaven, O incomprehensible, compassionate and Loving God; and by thine invisible hand, mark our senses with thy seal. To those who with faith run to thee seeking forgiveness of their sins, grant healing of soul and body by thy divine Oil, so that they may with fervent desire glorify thy kingdom.

Verse: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Anointed with thy mercy, and by the touch of thy priests, O Lover of mankind, sanctify from on high thy servants; and deliver them from their illnesses. O Savior, purify and wash out the blemish of their souls, and rescue them from evil plots. Comfort their pains, and drive away adverse circumstances. Utterly destroy their afflictions, for thou art a merciful and a compassionate Lord.

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

O Most pure palace of the King, I implore thee, O greatly honored one: cleanse my mind, which is stained by every sin, and make it a pleasant dwelling place for the supremely divine Trinity, that I, thy worthless servant, being saved, may glorify thy dominion and thy boundless mercy.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High; to declare thy mercy in the morning, and thy truthfulness by night⁹.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

⁸(Ps 150:1-6).

⁹(Ps 91<90>:1-2).

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 daily¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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.”

Amen.

Troparion, Fourth Tone

Thou, who art alone the speedy helper, O Christ, grant thy favor from on high upon thy suffering servants. Deliver them from their infirmities and their sufferings. Raise them up to praise and glorify thee ceaselessly, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

The Litany of Peace

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

¹⁰Or, “living”.

¹¹Or the evil one.

N: For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

N: For the people here present, awaiting the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

N: That this oil may be blessed with the visitation, majesty and power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

N: For the servants of God who have come to this holy mystery that God will visit them and that the grace of the Holy Spirit will come upon them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

N: 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.

To thee, O Lord.

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.

Amen.

N: Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The Prayer of the Oil

PRIEST: O Lord, through thy mercies and compassions heal the disorders of our souls and bodies. O Master, consecrate this oil that it may heal and deliver those who are anointed with it from every sinful passion, every bodily illness, every defilement of flesh and spirit, and every infliction; and that in this Oil may thy most Holy Name be glorified: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The People sing the following Troparia:

Fourth Tone

Thou art alone the speedy helper, grant thy favor from on high upon thy suffering servants. Deliver them from their infirmities and their sufferings. Raise them up to praise and glorify thee ceaselessly, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

Fourth Tone

Spiritually blind, I come to thee, O Christ, as did the man blind from his birth, crying in repentance to thee: Thou art the truly bright light of those who are in darkness.

Third Tone

O Lord, as thou didst raise up the paralytic, by thy divine authority raise up my soul, which is dreadfully paralyzed by my dishonest deeds, so that being saved, I may cry to thee: O Compassionate Christ, glory to thy dominion.

Eighth Tone

O righteous James, as a disciple of the Lord, you received the Gospel; as a martyr you possess the unperverted truth, as a brother of the Lord you have boldness, and as a Hierarch you have the power of intercession. Implore Christ our God that he may save our souls.

Fourth Tone

The Only-Begotten Word of God the Father who lived among us appointed thee, O divine James, to be the first shepherd and teacher in Jerusalem and a faithful steward of spiritual mysteries: Therefore, O apostle we all honor thee.

Third Tone

Holy and devout bishop of Myra, you have been revealed as a Hierarch; for in fulfilling the Gospel of Christ you have sacrificed your spirit for your people and rescued the innocent from death. Therefore, you were sanctified as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Third Tone

O victorious Demetrios, the world has found you a great defender in affliction, turning the war with the gentiles into victory; you brought to naught the pride of Lyaeus and encouraged Nestor in the Coliseum. Therefore, implore Christ our God, O holy and great martyr Demetrios, to grant us great mercy.

Third Tone

O Holy victor and healer Panteleimon, intercede with the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Fourth Tone

O Holy miracle-workers and unmercenary healers regard our illnesses: You received without payment, give without payment.¹²

Third Tone

O pure John, who will declare your splendor? For you pour out wonders; you gush forth healings; and you intercede for our souls, for you are a theologian and friend of Christ.

Second Tone

O fervent intercessor and invincible rampart, source of mercy, shelter of the world, to thee we earnestly cry aloud: O Lady Theotokos, who alone art the speedy protector, be with us and deliver us from dangers.

The First Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

¹²(Matt.10:8).

Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in thee,¹³ Rejoice in the Lord, O righteous.¹⁴

Wisdom.

The lesson from the Universal Epistle of James.

Let us attend.

James 5:10-16

Brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we call them blessed who showed endurance. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the accomplishment of the Lord: that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. Above all, my Brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. Let your “Yes” be “Yes” and your “No” “No” so that you may not fall under condemnation. Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing hymns of praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous has a powerful effect.

Peace be to you who has read.

Alleluia (*3 times*)

The First Gospel Reading

Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to all.

And to thy Spirit.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Let us attend.

¹³(Ps.33<32>:22).

¹⁴(Ps.33<32>:1).

Luke 10:25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read?” And the lawyer answered, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’” And Jesus said to him, “You have answered right; do this and you will live.”

But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan came to where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day, he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper saying, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three do you think proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” The lawyer said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The First Prayer

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Holy of Holies, eternal without beginning, thou hast sent forth thine Only-begotten Son to heal every illness and every sickness of our souls and bodies: Send down thy Holy Spirit, and consecrate this Oil. Make it to be for thine anointed servants the deliverance from their sins, for inheritance of the Kingdom of heaven. For thou art a great and marvelous God, steadfast in thy covenant and thy mercy for those who love thee. Thou deliverest them from their sins through thy holy Son, Jesus Christ. Thou givest us a new birth from our sins. Thou

openest the eyes that are blind,¹⁵ and restorest the fallen. Thou lovest the righteous and showest mercy to sinners. Thou renewest us who sit in darkness¹⁶ and the dark shadow of death.¹⁷ Thou sayest to those in bondage: “Go free,” and to those who sit in darkness: “Uncover your eyes.” For the knowledge of thine Only-Begotten Son has shone in our hearts, since for our sake he appeared on earth, and lived with mankind.¹⁸ To all who received him, he gave power to become children of God,¹⁹ granting us adoption through the washing of rebirth²⁰ and freeing us from participation in the oppression of the devil. Since it was not his pleasure that we should be cleansed by blood, but by Holy Oil, he gave us the imprint of his Cross, so that we might become the flock of Christ, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation;²¹ he purified us by water and sanctified us by the Holy Spirit. O Master and Lord, grant us grace in this ministry, as thou gavest to thy servant Moses and to Samuel thy beloved and to John thy chosen one and to all those who in every generation were pleasing unto thee. In like manner, make us servants of the New Covenant of thy Son, through this Oil, which thou hast secured through the precious Blood of thy Christ. Thus putting away earthly desires, we may be dead to sin and alive to righteousness, putting on our Lord Jesus Christ by anointing with this sanctifying oil we are about to apply. Let this oil, O Lord, be the oil of gladness, the oil of sanctification, a royal garment, a breastplate of power, an averter of every operation of the devil, the seal that cannot be plotted against, the joy of heart, the eternal gladness. Thus will those who are anointed with this Oil of new birth terrify their adversaries, shine in the brightness of thy Saints, without spot or wrinkle, receive thine eternal rest, and accept the award of the high calling. For it is thine to show mercy and save us, O our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Second Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

The Lord is my strength and my praise.²² The Lord has disciplined me severely.²³

Wisdom.

¹⁵(Is.42:7).

¹⁶(Is. 42:7; Ps. 107:10).

¹⁷(Ps. 107:10).

¹⁸(Baruch 3:37).

¹⁹ (Jn. 1:12).

²⁰(Titus 3:5).

²¹(1 Peter 2:9).

²²(Heb. “might”) (Ps. 118<117>:14).

²³(Ps. 118<117>18).

R: The lesson is from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans.

N: Let us attend.

Romans 15:1-7

R: Brethren, we then who are strong ought to bear with the weakness of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please his neighbor for the good purpose of building him up. For Christ did not please himself; but as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you fell on me." For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that we through patience and through the encouragement of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and encouragement grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

E: Peace be to you who has read.

S: Alleluia (*3 times*)

The Second Gospel Reading

N: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

E: Peace be to all.

S: And to thy Spirit.

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

S: Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

N: Let us attend.

Luke 19:1-10

N: At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down and received him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all murmured, "He has gone in to be a guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

S: Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

N: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Second Prayer

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Great and Most High God, adorned by all creation, source of wisdom, untraceable depth of goodness, and boundless ocean of tender mercy, O Master, lover of mankind, the God of eternal and wondrous things whom no one can conceive or understand, look down favorably upon thine unworthy servants and hear us. Wherever in thy Great Name we offer thee this Oil, send down as thy free gift thy healing and forgiveness of sins and heal thy people in thy great mercy. O Lord, thou art easily reconcilable and alone art merciful and the lover of mankind. Thou didst relent concerning²⁴ terrible punishment for our evil deeds. Thou knowest that the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth.²⁵ Thou desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather he might turn back and live. Though God, thou didst become incarnate for the salvation of sinners, taking on the human form for thy creatures. Thou hast said: "I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners."²⁶ Thou hast looked for the lost sheep, thou hast searched carefully for the lost silver coin and thou hast found it. Thou hast said: "Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away."²⁷ Thou didst not detest the sinful woman who bathed thy precious feet with her tears. Thou hast said: "As often as thou fallest, arise, and you will be saved." Thou art he who said: "There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents."²⁸ O merciful Master, look down favorably from the height of thy holy place; and in this hour overshadow us, thy sinful and unworthy servants, with the grace of thy Holy Spirit; and dwell among thy servants who acknowledge their transgressions and approach thee in faith. By thy love toward mankind, accept them and forgive them whatever they have done wrong, whether by word, or deed or thought; and cleanse them from every sin. Be present with them, and protect the remaining time of their life so that walking in thy statutes, they may no longer become objects of the malignant joy of the devil. And may thine all-Holy name be glorified in them.

²⁴(Amos 7:3).

²⁵(Gen 8:21).

²⁶(Matt. 9:13).

²⁷(Jn. 6:37).

²⁸(Lk. 15:7).

For it is thine to show mercy and save us, O Christ our God, and unto thee we give glory together with thine Father who is from everlasting, and thine all-Holy good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Third Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?²⁹

Wisdom.

The lesson is from the first epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Let us attend.

1 Cor.12:27-31;13:1-8

Brethren, now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But strive eagerly for the greater gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love does not envy; love is not conceited, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not irritable, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never comes to an end. But where there are prophecies, they will come to an end; where there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Peace be to you who has read.

Alleluia (*3 times*)

The Third Gospel Reading

Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to all.

²⁹(Ps. 27<26>:1)..

And to thy Spirit.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Let us attend.

Matthew 10:1, 5-8

At that time, Jesus called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits: to cast them out and to heal every disease and infirmity. These twelve Jesus sent out charging them: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick; cleanse the lepers; raise the dead; cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Third Prayer

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Almighty Master, O Holy King, thou disciplinest yet dost not put to death, thou upholdest all who are falling, and raisest up all who are bowed down,³⁰ thou relievest the physical suffering of mankind. We implore thee, O our God, to send thy mercy upon this Oil and upon all those anointed with it in thy name. Let it be effectual for the healing of their souls and bodies and for cleansing and for relieving from every

³⁰(Ps. 154 <144>:14).

suffering, disease, sickness, and defilement, of both body and spirit. Yea, Lord, send down from heaven thine healing power. Touch the bodies, alleviate the fever, relieve the suffering, and expel every hidden sickness. Be the physician of thy servants; raise them up from the bed of their sickness and cruel suffering; and restore them to thy Church in safety and health to please thee and to do thy will.

For it is thine to show mercy and save us, O our God, and unto thee we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Fourth Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

On the day, I called you answered me³¹ O Lord, hear my prayer. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Wisdom.

The lesson is from the second epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Let us attend.

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Brethren, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate from them, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty." Having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit and bring our holiness to perfection in the fear of God.

Peace be to you who has read.

Alleluia *(Three times)*

The Fourth Gospel Reading

Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to all.

And to thy Spirit.

³¹(Ps. 138<137>:3).

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Let us attend.

Matthew 8:14-23

At that time, Jesus entered Peter's house, and he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served them. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases." Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of heaven have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Fourth Prayer

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Good and loving, compassionate and very merciful Lord, thou art plentiful in mercy, rich in benevolence, the Father of mercy and God of all comfort, who through thy holy Disciples empowered us to heal the illness of thy people by Oil and prayer: Do thyself confirm this Oil for the healing of those who will be anointed with it, for the relief from every sickness and malady and for the deliverance from the bodily illness of those who earnestly await deliverance from thee. Yea, O Almighty Master, Lord our God, we entreat thee to save us. O only Physician of our souls and bodies, purify us all; heal thy servants, O healer of every malady. Raise them up from their sick-bed, through the mercies of thy goodness. Visit them with thy mercy and compassion. Expel by thy mighty hand every sickness and malady so that when they rise up, they may serve thee with thanksgiving. We also, who now share in thine inexpressible love towards mankind, praise and glorify thee who

performest great, marvelous, glorious and splendid deeds.

For it is thine to show mercy and save us, O our God, and unto thee we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Fifth Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

You, O Lord, will protect us.³² Save me, O Lord, for the faithful have disappeared.³³

Wisdom.

The lesson is from the second epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Let us attend.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Brethren, we do not want you to be uninformed of our affliction which came to us in Asia: we were burdened beyond measure and above strength so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt in ourselves that we received the sentence of death so that we should not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead, who delivered us from such terrible and deadly dangers and will continue to deliver us; on whom we have set our hope that he will still deliver us. You also join in helping us by your prayers that thanks may be given by many people on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Peace be to you who has read.

Alleluia (*Three times*)

The Fifth Gospel Reading

Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to all.

And to thy Spirit.

³²(Ps. 124:7).

³³(Psalm. 12:1).

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Let us attend.

(Matthew 25:1-13)

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterward, the other virgins came also saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he replied, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man will come.”

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Fifth Prayer

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord our God, thou disciplinest, yet thou healest; thou raisest the poor from the dust, and liftest the needy from the ash heap.³⁴ O Father of orphans, haven of the storm-tossed, and physician of the sick, thou without weakness hast borne our illness, and assumed our sickness, thou showest mercy with cheerfulness, and passest over our transgressions,³⁵ pardoning our iniquity. Thou art quick to help and slow to anger.³⁶

³⁴(1 Sam. 2:8).

³⁵(Micah 7:18).

Thou didst breath on thy holy Disciples and say to them: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.”³⁷ Thou acceptest the repentance of sinners, and hast authority to forgive numerous and grievous sins, bestowing healing upon all who have spent their life in sickness and chronic diseases; thou hast called me, also, thine humble, sinful and unworthy servant, entangled in heavy sins, and immersed in pleasures by my lustful passions, to the Holy and high degree of priesthood, and to enter the inner shrine behind the curtain,³⁸ into the Holy of Holies, where the Holy Angels desire to look, and to hear the voice of the Lord which bears good news, and to see with their eyes the presence of the holy Oblation, and to enjoy the divine and sacred Liturgy. Thou hast made me worthy to administer thine heavenly Mysteries, and to offer unto thee gifts and sacrifices for our sins and the sins of the people, committed through ignorance, and to mediate for thy sheep which are endowed with reason, that, through thy great and inexpressible love toward mankind, thou wouldest wipe away their sins. O supremely good King, hear my prayer in this hour and this holy day and at every time and place; listen to the voice of my supplication. Grant healing to thy servants, who are sick both in soul and body, bestowing upon them forgiveness of sins and pardon for their transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary; heal their incurable diseases, every sickness and every malady. Give health to their souls, for thou didst touch the mother-in-law of Peter and the fever left her so that she rose and served them: Do thyself, O Master, grant also healing to thy servants, relieving them from every pernicious disease. Be mindful of thy mercy, O Lord, and of thy steadfast love.³⁹ Remember that every human mind inclines toward evil from his youth, and no one on the earth is found sinless; for thou art alone without sin, having come down to save the human race and to set us free from the slavery to the enemy. If thou enterest into judgment with thy servants⁴⁰ no one will be pure from stain, but every mouth will be sealed, having no defense; for all our righteousness is like filthy rags⁴¹ in thy presence. Therefore, remember not the sins of our youth. For thou art the hope of the hopeless and the rest of those who are weary and are carrying heavy

³⁶(Ex. 34:6).

³⁷(John 20:22).

³⁸(Heb. 6:19).

³⁹(Ps. 25<24>:6).

⁴⁰(Ps. 143 <142>:2).

⁴¹(Is. 64:6).

burdens,⁴² and unto thee we give glory, together with thy Father, who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Sixth Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

⁴²(Matt. 11:28).

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy.⁴³ Create in me a clean heart, O God.⁴⁴

N: Wisdom.

R: The lesson is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians.

N: Let us attend.

Galatians 5:22-6:2

R: Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, irritating one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, taking care that you yourself are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

R: Peace be to you who has read.

R: Alleluia (*Three times*)

The Sixth Gospel Reading

N: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

R: Peace be to all.

R: And to thy Spirit.

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

R: Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

N: Let us attend.

Matthew 15:21-28

R: At that time, Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came and cried out, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her a word. And his disciples

⁴³(Psalm 51 <50>:1).

⁴⁴(Psalm 51<50>:10).

came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” Jesus answered “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him saying, “Lord, help me!” And Jesus answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Sixth Prayer

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord our God, thou who art loving, good, and the physician of our souls and bodies: we give thanks unto thee, for thou hast easily borne our illness and by thy wounds we have been healed.⁴⁵ Thou didst come in search of the sheep who went astray. Thou didst encourage the faint-hearted and didst give life to the oppressed. Thou didst heal the woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. Thou didst free the daughter of the Canaanite woman from a fierce demon. Thou didst forgive the debt of the two debtors and the sins of the sinful woman. Thou didst heal the paralytic forgiving his sins. Thou didst make the tax-collector righteous by one word and accepted the thief at his last confession. Thou takest away the sin of the world,⁴⁶ nailing it to the Cross.⁴⁷ O God, we pray and we implore thee in thy goodness, pardon, remit and forgive the sins and iniquities of thy servants, both voluntary or involuntary, in knowledge or in ignorance, whether transgression or disobedience, at night or at day, whether they are under the ban of a priest, of a father or mother, whether through the pleasure of the eye or the weakness of the sense of smell, through the softness of the touch or the taste of adultery, or through any impulse of

⁴⁵(1 Pet. 2:24).

⁴⁶(John 1:29).

⁴⁷(Col. 2:14).

the flesh or of the spirit they have become alienated from thy will and from thine holiness. If we also have sinned in like manner forgive us: for thou art a good, loving and forgiving God. Do not allow them or us to fall into an impure life, nor fall into destructive paths. Yea, O Lord, hear me, a sinner, in this hour on behalf of thy servants: overlook, as a forgiving God, all their sins. Set them free from the eternal punishment. Fill their mouths with thy praise; open their lips that they may glorify thy name; stretch forth their hands to do thy commandments; direct their feet in the way of thy Gospel, strengthening all their members and their minds by thy grace. For thou art our God, who gave us a commandment by thy holy Apostles saying: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven,"⁴⁸ and "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them."⁴⁹ And as thou didst listen to Ezekiel in the sorrow of his soul at the hour of his death and did not despise his supplications, so also, in like manner, hear me, thine humble and unworthy servant at this hour. For thou art the Lord Jesus Christ, who through thy Goodness and love toward mankind commanded us to forgive those who fall in sins not even seven times, but seventy times seven. Thou forgivest our wickedness and rejoicest over the conversion of those who have gone astray. For as is thy majesty, so also is thy mercy, and unto thee we give glory, with thine Father, who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The Seventh Epistle Reading

Let us attend.

⁴⁸(Matt. 16:19).

⁴⁹(John 20:22).

O Lord, do not rebuke me in thine anger, or discipline me in thy wrath.⁵⁰ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.⁵¹

Wisdom.

The lesson is from the first epistle of the apostle Paul to the Thessalonians.

Let us attend.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-23

Brethren, we urge you, warn the idlers, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always strive for what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace be to you who has read.

Alleluia (*Three times*)

The Seventh Gospel Reading

Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to all.

And to thy Spirit.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Let us attend.

Matthew 9:9-13

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And he said to him, "Follow me." And he arose and followed him. And as he sat at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When

⁵⁰(Psalm 38 (37):1).

⁵¹(Psalm 6:2).

Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, remission and forgiveness of the sins of the servants of God, all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give Glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Let us pray to the lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The Seventh Prayer

O Master, Lord our God, Physician of souls and bodies, thou healest chronic sufferings and curest every infirmity and every sickness among the people. Thou desirest every one to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.⁵² Thou desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he should repent and live. In the ancient covenant, thou didst appoint repentance for sinners, for David, for the Ninevites, and for those both before and after them. When thou hast come in the flesh to dwell among thy people in the new dispensation, thou didst not call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance;⁵³ thou didst accept through repentance the blasphemous and great persecutor Paul, as well as the tax-collector, the prostitute, and the thief. Through repentance thou didst accept the great Peter who denied thee three times, promising and saying to him: “Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”⁵⁴ Therefore, O Good one, lover of mankind, according to thy trustworthy promise, we take courage to entreat thee and implore thee in this hour: Hear our supplication and receive it as incense offered unto thee. Visit thy servants. If they have committed any sin

⁵²(1 Tim. 2:4).

⁵³(Matt. 9: 13).

⁵⁴(Matt. 16:18-19).

whether by word or deed or thought, at night or during the day, or if they have fallen under the ban of a priest, or under self-binding oath, or have been provoked to commit a sin by an oath, or they have taken an oath, we entreat thee and supplicate thee: Pardon, remit, and forgive them, O God, overlooking their sins and iniquities of knowledge or of ignorance. If they have transgressed thy commandments or have sinned because they bear flesh and dwell in the world, or by reason of the devil, do thyself, as a Good and loving God, forgive them, for there is no one who lives and sins not. For thou art sinless, and thy righteousness is to all eternity, and thy word is truth. For thou hast not created the human race to be destined to Hell, but to keep thy commandments and to inherit the incorruptible life: unto thee we give glory, with thy Father, who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

The people kneel

Then the Priest takes the Book of the Holy Gospels, opened and with the printing facing down and raises it above the heads of the faithful attending and recites the following prayer aloud. If several priests take part in the service, they all shall hold the gospel Book and read the prayer silently.

The Prayer of Anointing

O Holy Father, physician of our souls and bodies, thou hast sent thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and deliver us from death: Heal also thy servants from the ills of the body and soul which are surrounding them and give them life by the Grace of thy Christ, through the intercessions of our pure Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the might precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the Holy glorious and ever-blessed apostles; of the Holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the Holy unmercenary healers Cosmas and Damian, Cyrus and John, Thalelaios and Tryphon, Panteleimon and Hermolaus, Samson and Diomidis, Mokius and Aniketos; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all thy Saints.

For thou art the fountain of healing, O God, our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

The Dismissal

Then the priest concludes the office of vespers with the following dismissal:

Wisdom!

Father bless.

Blessed is HE WHO IS, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption,⁵⁵ gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

⁵⁵Or remaining virgin....

Glory to thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

The Benediction

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; 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 our father among the saints James the Apostle and the first bishop of Rome; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (N) patron Saint of this Church; of Saint(s) *N.N.*, whose memory we celebrate and of all the saints: have mercy upon us, and save us, for as much as he is good and lovest of mankind.

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

Amen.

The priests anoint the forehead, chin, cheeks and hands of the faithful saying: "The servant of God (N) is anointed with the Holy Unction for the healing of soul and body." The following hymns are chanted while the priests anoint the faithful with the Holy Unction:

Troparion, Fourth Tone

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

Having the fountain of healing, O Holy unmercenary, you bestow healing upon all who ask; for you were accounted worthy of great gifts from the ever-flowing fountain, Christ our Savior. For as the Lord said to you, equal in fervor to the Apostles: "Behold, I have given you authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to cure every disease and every sickness." Therefore, as you have conducted a good life, according to his commandments: You received without payment; give without payment.⁵⁶ You have cured the sufferings of our souls and bodies.

Theotokion, Fourth Tone

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

O most pure Lady, incline into the prayers of thy servants, for thou didst prevent the fierce attacks upon us, setting us free from our affliction. We have in thee the only safe and firm anchor, and we have acquired thy protection. As we all call upon thee we will not be put to shame. Hasten to the supplications of those who cry out faithfully to thee: "Rejoice, O Lady! the help of all, the joy and the shelter, and the salvation of our souls!"

⁵⁶(Matt. 10:8).

If several Priests take part in the service, they shall each participate in the anointing: one anointing the forehead, another the palms, another the body, etc.

Note: Warm water and paper towels ought to be provided at the entrance of the Church, that the faithful may blot the Holy Oil on their forehead and palms before leaving the Church. The Holy Oil which remains may be distributed to the faithful who shall anoint the walls of their dwellings with it and preserve it in case of illness; or let it be poured into the Sanctuary Lamp from which oil is taken to anoint the remains of the deceased bodies of the faithful at their burial.

Note: Since Holy Unction is a Sacrament of the Church, the Priest must keep in mind that only members of the Orthodox Catholic Church of Christ may receive the same.