

The Service of Matins
Saints Amphilochius and Gregory.
Katavasias of Christmas.

Maui Orthodox Christian Mission

Metropolis of San Francisco

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Service held at Saint Theresa Church

Kihei, Maui, Hawaii

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Orthros (Service of Matins)

Akolouth (Fixed portion)

ROYAL BEGINNING

Priest

Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader

(intoned) Amen.

Priest

* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present everywhere and filling all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of every impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

Reader

Amen.

Trisagion

Reader

**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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your names sake.

* From the Sunday of Pascha through the Sunday of Pentecost, Glory to You, O God ... and Heavenly King ... is not said.

*

**From Pascha until its Apodosis instead of Holy God ..., we chant: Christ is risen from the dead ..., (thrice, once from the Holy of Holies, and twice by the choir).

**

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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, (*intoned*) but deliver us from the evil one.

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 to the ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

The Royal Troparia

Troparion of the Cross

Reader

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the rulers against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your commonwealth through Your holy Cross.

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

Kontakion of the Cross

Reader

You, O Christ our God, Who chose of Your own will to be lifted up on the Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new commonwealth which is called by Your name. In Your power, gladden the hearts of our faithful rulers against those who war against them, having Your alliance as their weapon of peace, an invincible standard.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Reader

Awesome and blameless protection, do not overlook our petitions, O pure and praiseworthy Theotokos; make firm the community of the Orthodox; save those whom you have called to rule; and grant them victory from heaven, *(intoned) for you bore God, only blessed one.*

Litany

Priest

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we beseech You, hear us and have mercy.

Chanter

(intoned) Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

Chanter

(intoned) Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Again we pray for our Archbishop (Name), and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Chanter

(intoned) Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Truly You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter

(intoned) Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest

Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

HEXAPSALM (SIX PSALMS)

Reader

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Psalm 3

Reader

O Lord, why are those who afflict me multiplied?

Many rise up against me. Many say to my soul: there is no salvation for him in his God.

But You, O Lord, are my Helper, my Glory, and the One who lifts up my head.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain.

I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves round about against me.

Rise, O Lord; save me, my God; for You have struck down all who without cause are my enemies; You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is on Your people.

(And Again) I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

Psalm 37

Reader

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath!

For Your arrows are fastened in me, and You have laid Your hand heavily upon me

There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Your wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins.

For my iniquities have risen higher than my head; they have pressed heavily on me as a heavy burden.

My wounds have become foul and festering in the face of my foolishness.

I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; I went all the day long with downcast face.

For my loins are filled with inflammation, and there is no healing in my flesh.

I am afflicted and exceedingly humbled, I have groaned from the turmoil of my heart.

O Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength has failed me; and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and my neighbors drew near over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off.

And those who sought after my soul used violence; and those who sought evils for me spoke vain things, and they meditated deception all the day long.

But as for me, like a deaf man I did not hear them, and I was as a speechless man who does not open his mouth.

And I became as a man that does not hear, and that has no reproofs in his mouth.

For I have hoped in You, O Lord; You will hear me, Lord my God.

For I said: Let my enemies never rejoice over me; indeed, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me.

For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me.

For I will declare my iniquity, and I will anguish concerning my sin.

But my enemies live and are made stronger than I, and those who hated me unjustly are multiplied.

Those who render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness.

Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.

Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

(And Again) Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.

Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

Reader

O God, my God, to You I rise early at dawn.

My soul has thirsted for You; how often has my flesh longed after You in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered.

So I have appeared before You in the sanctuary to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise You.

So shall I bless You in my life, and I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with lips of rejoicing.

If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at the dawn.

For You have become my Helper; I will rejoice in the shelter of Your wings.

My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.

But as for those who in vain have sought after my soul, they shall go into the lowest parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword, they shall be portions for foxes.

But the king shall be glad in God; everyone shall be praised that swears by Him; for the mouth of those who speak unjust things is stopped.

(And Again) At the dawn I meditated on You; For You have become my Helper; in the shelter of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

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

Psalm 87

Reader

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

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication.

For my soul is filled with evils, and my life has drawn near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit; I have become as a man without help, free among the dead.

I am like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, Whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand.

They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and the shadow of death.

Your anger lies heavily on me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves.

You have removed my friends far from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves.

I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; my eyes have grown weak from poverty.

I have cried to You, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands to You.

No, will You work wonders for the dead? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to You?

No, shall any in the grave tell of Your mercy, and of Your truth in that destruction?

No, shall Your wonders be known in that darkness, and Your righteousness in that land that is forgotten?

But as for me, I have cried to You, O Lord; and in the morning my prayer shall come before You.

O Lord, why do You therefore cast off my soul and turn Your face away from me?

I am as a poor man, and in troubles from my youth; indeed, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress.

Your fierce wrath has gone over me, and Your terrors have sorely troubled me.

They came around me all day long like water, they engulfed me altogether.

Because of my misery You have removed friend and neighbor and my acquaintances far from me.

(And Again) O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication!

Psalm 102

Reader

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all that He has done for you.

Who is gracious to all your iniquities, Who heals all your infirmities.

Who redeems your life from corruption, Who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

Who fulfills your desire with good things; your youth shall be renewed as the eagles.

The Lord does deeds of mercy, and executes judgment for all those who are wronged.

He has made His ways known to Moses, the things that He has willed to the sons of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long suffering and plenteous in mercy; He will not be angered to the end, neither will He be angry to eternity.

He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities, neither has He rewarded us according to our sins.

For according to the height of heaven from the earth, so has the Lord made His mercy to prevail over those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our iniquities from us.

Like a father has compassion on his sons, so has the Lord had compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows of what we are made, He has remembered that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth.

For when the wind passes over it, then it shall be gone, and its place will no longer remember it.

But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even to eternity, on those who fear Him.

And His righteousness is on sons of sons, on those who keep His testament and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O all you His Angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words.

Bless the Lord, O all you His hosts, His ministers that do His will.

Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

(And Again) Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

Psalm 142

Reader

O Lord, hear my prayer, in Your truth give ear to my supplications; hear me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living shall be justified.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has humbled my life down to the earth.

He has sat me in darkness as those who have been long dead, and my spirit within me has become despondent; my heart within me is troubled.

I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Your works, I pondered on the creations of Your hands.

I stretched forth my hands to You; my soul thirsts after You like a waterless land.

Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has fainted away.

Do not turn Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for I have put my hope in You.

Cause me to know, O Lord, the way in which I should walk; for I have lifted up my soul to You.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord; I have fled to You for refuge.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

Your good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; You shall quicken me for Your names sake, O Lord.

In Your righteousness You shall bring my soul out of affliction, and in Your mercy You shall utterly destroy my enemies.

And You shall cut off all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

(Repeat) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Reader

(*intoned*) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God. Lord, my Hope, glory to You.

LITANY OF THE PEACE (THE GREAT LITANY)

Deacon

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

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

Chanter

(*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For the peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon

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

Chanter

(*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For our Archbishop (Name), the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces on land, at sea, and in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For this city, for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For travelers by sea, land and air; the sick, the suffering, the captives and their salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

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

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Chanter

(sung) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious * Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

Chanter

(sung) To You, O Lord.

Priest

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter

(sung) Amen.

Sequences (Variable portion)

THEOS KYRIOS (GOD IS LORD)

Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His holy name.

Verse: All the nations circled me, and I warded them off with the name of the Lord.

Verse: This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikion

Saints Amphilochios, Bishop of Iconium, and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum

Mode 4.

O God of our Fathers, ever dealing with us according to Thy gentleness: take not Thy mercy from us, but by their entreaties guide our life in peace.

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

The Entry of the Theotokos

Mode 4.

Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Mode 4.

O Theotokos through you became manifest to us on earth the mystery which was hid from eternity and which the Angels themselves knew not that God uniting natures without confusion becomes a man and accepts crucifixion for our salvation voluntarily. By virtue of this resurrecting man whom He had first created He saved our souls from death.

THE PSALTER

The Small Litany

PRIEST

In peace let us again pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIR

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For yours is the dominion, the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Sessional Hymns

Kathisma I

Mode 1. The soldiers standing guard.

The feeder of our Life,* now an infant in body,* the offspring of the just* Joachim and Anna,* is offered to God today in the holy Sanctuary.* She was blessed therein* by the priest Zacharias.* Therefore let us all,* with faith, proclaim she is blessed,* for she is the Mother of the Lord.

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

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The feeder of our Life,* now an infant in body,* the offspring of the just* Joachim and Anna,* is offered to God today in the holy Sanctuary.* She was blessed therein* by the priest Zacharias.* Therefore let us all,* with faith, proclaim she is blessed,* for she is the Mother of the Lord.

Kathisma II

Mode 4. Joseph was amazed.

Consecrated unto God* were you before you were conceived;* being born on earth, to Him* you now are offered as a gift,* O pure one, filling the promise made by your parents.* In purity returned unto the Temple divine* from infancy with lamps brightly shining, in truth* you were a temple divine and a vessel* of the divine unapproachable Light.* How truly great is* your sacred entrance,* O only ever-virgin Bride of God.

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

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Consecrated unto God* were you before you were conceived;* being born on earth, to Him* you now are offered as a gift,* O pure one, filling the promise made by your parents.* In purity returned unto the Temple divine* from infancy with lamps brightly shining, in truth* you were a temple divine and a vessel* of the divine unapproachable Light.* How truly great is* your sacred entrance,* O only ever-virgin Bride of God.

Kathisma III

Mode 4. Be quick to anticipate.

Thou lightest the farthest regions on thy mem'ry today; * thy body doth gush forth fountains of swift healings, O wise famed Amphilochius, * Hereby thou does rescue from all manner of sickness * all them that with faith approach thy ven'able temple; * and now ask that we all might receive pardon of trespasses.

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

Mode pl. 4. By conceiving the wisdom.

Set apart to the Lord from thy swaddling bands, * as all-glorious Samuel was of yore, * in like wise, thou gavest ear * to the Saviour, Who called to thee; * having made thy soul pure by intense striving for the good, * thou was granted the grace of the priesthood befittingly. * Wherefore, thou didst tend thy flock upon the green pasture * of knowledge of things divine * and thou shonest forth lightning-like * working healings, O Gregory, * Intercede with Christ our God * that forgiveness of all their transgressions be * granted to them that with longing keep thy holy memory.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Mode pl. 4. When the bodiless one.

Exult, O David, the composer of divine hymns;* and dance for joy, O Joachim along with Anna;* for from you has come forth a most holy offspring,* yes, Mary the divine lantern bearing the light.* And as she enters the Temple she does rejoice.* As he saw her, the priestly son of Barachiah blest her,* and full of joy he cried aloud, Rejoice, wonder of all the world.

THE LITTLE LITANY

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us again in peace pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIR

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

READER

Amen.

PSALM 50

Reader

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my iniquity, and my sin is continually before me.

Against You only have I sinned and done this evil before You; that You may be justified in Your words, and prevail when You are judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be made clean; You will wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and with Your governing Spirit establish me.

I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly will turn back to You.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, my tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole burnt offerings You will not be pleased.

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;

Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt offerings;

Then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. And have mercy on me, O God.

Choir

Mode 2g.

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

At the intercession of the Saints, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offenses.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offenses.

PRIEST / DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven; the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles; our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker and Charalambos the Hieromartyr; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (the patron saint of the church); the holy and righteous ancestors of righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; of Saint Amphilochius and Saint Gregory, whose memory we are celebrating, and of all your Saints; we beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIRS

Lord have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

Kontakion of St. Amphilochius

READER

O thunder divine, thou husbandman of faithful men, the Spirit's clear trump, O axe that hewest heresies, Hierarch Amphilochius, thou great servant of God the Trinity, ever with the Angels on high (*intoned*) *cease not interceding for all of us, O Saint.*

Kontakion of St. Gregory

READER

O wise Hierarch Gregory, as a great sun bright with splendour, thou dost make God's Church to shine with brilliant dawns of wonders. Many men didst thou deliver by thine entreaties; and thou drovest far away from thy flock and sheepfold men of false belief and doctrine; (*intoned*) *thus we revere thee, Father most godly of mind.*

Synaxarion

READER

On the twenty-third of this month we commemorate our Father among the Saints Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium.

On this day we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory, bishop of the Church of Agrigentum in Sicily.

On this day we commemorate our righteous Father Sisinius of Czyicus, the Martyr.

On this day we commemorate the holy Bishop Ischyron of Egypt, reposed in peace.

On this day we commemorate Saint Helenus, Bishop of Tarsus, reposed in peace.

On this day we commemorate our righteous Father Columban of Ireland, Abbot and Founder of the Monastery of Luxovium in Gaul.

On this day we commemorate the repose of Saint Alexander Nevsky, who became Alexis, Monk.

On this day we commemorate our Father among the Saints Metrophanes, First Bishop of Voronezh, who was renamed Macarius in the holy schema and reposed in the year 1703.

On this day we commemorate our righteous Father Anthony of Izeru Skete near Vilcea in Romania.

On this day we commemorate the holy New Hieromartyr Alexander, Deacon in Perm, who was slain by the atheists in the year 1920.

On this day we commemorate the holy new Hieromartyr Searaphim, Hieromonk in Moscow, who was slain by the atheists in the year 1931.

On this day we commemorate the holy New Hieromartyr Amphilochius, Bishop of Enisey, who was slain by the atheists in the year 1937.

(intoned) By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

CHOIR

Katavasiai

Katavasias of Christmas I. Ode i. Mode 1.

Christ is born; therefore, glorify!* Christ is come from heaven; encounter Him!* Christ is on earth; arise to Him!* Sing to the Lord all you who dwell on the earth and in merry spirits,* O you peoples, praise His birth, for He is glorified.

Ode iii.

To the Son begotten* without flux of the Father before the ages,* and who was lately made incarnate* of the Virgin without seed* to Christ God now let us cry aloud,* “You have exalted the horn of our strength,* only You are holy, O Lord.”

Ode iv.

Jesses root produced a branch, O Christ, and You, its flower, blossomed forth* from the Virgin who by Habakkuk prophetically once was called,* overshadowed dense mountain.* From her who knew not man You came incarnate,* the immaterial God. Glory to Your power, O Lord.

Ode v.

God of peace and Father of mercies, your Son* You have sent unto us as your messenger,* the Angel of Great Counsel who is granting us Your peace.* Therefore, having been guided* to the light of godly knowledge,* waking from the night to dawn we sing Your glory, O Lover of man.

Ode vi.

Such as it received* Jonah as an embryo,* the sea beast disgorged him from its bowels intact.* With the virgin though,* when the Logos had dwelt in her, taking on flesh,* He came forth from her preserving her yet incorrupt.* For from her no fluxion suffered He, * and He kept her unaltered in childbirth.

Ode vii.

The children,* nurtured piously together,* with contempt regarded the impious kings decree,* intrepidly faced the threat of holocaust,* and while standing in the midst of flames they chanted thus,* saying, “O God of the fathers, You are blessed.”

We praise, and we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Ode viii.

Babylons bedewing furnace bore the image* of an extraordinary wonder,* for it did not burn the youths it accepted,* nor did the fire of Divinity* consume the Virgins womb wherein it went.* So let us melodiously chant in praise,* “Let all creation bless and extol the Lord,* and let it exalt Him * supremely to the ages.”

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of light.

The Magnificat*Mode 4e.*

CHOIRS

Verse: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: For He has considered the humility of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: He performed mighty deeds with His arm; He confounded the proud in the intention of their heart.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: He deposed the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the humble; He filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Katavasia

Ode ix. Mode 1.

*O my soul, magnify her who is greater * in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.*

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery,* for behold! the grotto is heaven,* cherubic throne is the Virgin,* the manger a grand space* in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe,* whom in extolling do we magnify.

Small Litany

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us again in peace pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIRS

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise you and give you glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIRS

Amen.

Exaposteilarion

Mode 3. While standing in the Temple's courts.

As righteous hierarchs, ye have proved * truly God-bearing shepherds * of Christ, the Shepherd and the Lamb, * O all-ven'erable Fathers, * most righteous Amphilochius * and thrice-blessed Gregory. * Now intercede ye with fervour * for us keeping your feast-day, * that we all be delivered * from perils of soul and body.

Theotokion

Same Melody.

The temple's inmost parts today, * at the hands of the High Priest, * admit thee in, O Full of Grace, * Theotokos and Virgin; * therein thou madest thine abode * from the age of

three to twelve. * At a divine Angel's pure hand, * thou was fed there and nourished, * as the holy elect ark * of the Creator of all things.

LAUDS (PRAISES)

Mode 1.

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. To You, O God, is due our song.

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. To You, O God, is due our song.

Stichera Prosomia

First Hymn of Praise

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

To do in them the written judgment. This glory shall be to all His saints.

The virgins carrying lanterns are brightly paving the way* for ever-virgin Mary;* and truly in the Spirit* they prophesy the future; for she is led* to the Temple from infancy,* going with virginal glory. She is indeed* Theotokos and the temple of God.

Second Hymn of Praise

Praise God for His saints; praise Him for the firmament of His power.

The Theotokos was shown forth unto the world in truth* to be the noble offspring of a most holy promise,* superior to all things. As she is led* reverently into the house of God,* the pious prayer of her parents she now fulfills;* and by the Holy Spirit she is preserved.

Third Hymn of Praise

Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him in proportion to the magnitude of His greatness.

Having been nourished, O Virgin, in faith on heavenly bread* within the Lord's own Temple,* for the world you have brought forth* the bread of life, the Logos. And as His own* chosen temple immaculate,* in the Spirit you were mystically betrothed* to God the Father and became His Bride.

Fourth Hymn of Praise

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Open the gate of the Temple that has received our God.* For Joachim has taken* from his own home in glory* the temple and the throne of the King of all,* and returns her and consecrates* unto the Master the daughter that he begot,* who was chosen as the Mother of God.

Mode 2. O house of Ephrata.

Fifth Hymn of Praise

Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.

Now, with the Entry of * the very Theotokos, * the mid-wall of partition * is lifted and all we here below are joined to those on high.

Sixth Hymn of Praise

The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto Thee.

Fair choirs of virgins sang * a tuneful and divine hymn, * escorting into God's House * the pure torch-bearing Maiden, her that alone is free of blame.

Seventh Hymn of Praise

They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the temple of the King.

Into that sacred place, * the Holiest of Holies, * receive, O Zacharias, * the Holiest of Holies, the very Mother of our God.

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

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

Mode pl. 2.

O ye assemblies of the faithful, as we come together today, let us spiritually keep festival and piously extol the Child of God, the Virgin and Theotokos, as she is led into the temple of the Lord; for she was forechosen out of all generations to be the habitation of Christ, the King and God of all. Ye virgins bearing torches, go before the Ever-Virgin, honoring her august progress. Ye mothers, lay aside all grief, and follow after them with rejoicing, to sing the praises of her that is become the Mother of God, and the mediatrix of joy for the whole world. And with the Angels, let us all joyously cry, "Rejoice to her that is full of grace, who ever intercedeth in behalf of our souls."

The Doxology follows immediately.