

**ORTHROS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017; TONE 1 / EOTHINON 1**  
**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

MELETIOS, ARCHBISHOP OF ANTIOCH; NEW-MARTYR CHRISTOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE;  
ALEXIS, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Choir: Amen.  
People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*  
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.  
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*  
Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

Choir: Amen. (Choir continues.)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (TWICE)

### PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

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

### PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)  
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 87

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

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath 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 is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)  
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

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

## THE GREAT LITANY

- Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.**
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.**
- Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.  
(In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.  
Choir: Lord, have mercy.  
Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.  
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.  
Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE ONE

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.  
**Verse 1.** O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. *(Refrain)*  
**Verse 2.** All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. *(Refrain)*  
**Verse 3.** This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. *(Refrain)*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*  
While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION IN TONE ONE

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*  
As Gabriel cried aloud unto thee, “Hail, O Virgin,” with that cry did the Lord of all become incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake the righteous David; and Thou wast revealed as more spacious than the heavens, in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore, glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to Him Who came from thee; glory to Him, Who through thy birth-giving hath set us free.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
Choir: Lord, have mercy.  
Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

### FIRST TONE RESURRECTIONAL KATHISMATA (Plain Reading)

#### First Kathisma

The soldiers who kept watch over Thy grave, O Savior, became as dead from the shining of the appearing angel who told the good tidings of the Resurrection to the women. Thee, therefore, do we glorify, O Remover of corruption, and to Thee do we bow, O Thou Who didst rise from the grave, O Thou, our only Lord.

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

Thou was nailed upon the cross willingly, O merciful One; and Thou wast placed in a grave like one who is dead, O Giver of Life, trampling the pride of death, O mighty One; for because of Thee the gatekeepers of Hades did tremble; and Thou didst raise the dead with Thee from eternity; for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

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

We have all known thee as Theotokos, and after giving birth thou didst appear truly virgin. We who eagerly seek refuge in thy goodness, have thus known thee; for we sinners have taken thee as intercessor, and in temptations have possessed thee as our salvation, O thou who alone art blameless.

#### Second Kathisma

Verily the women did proceed to the grave early, where they beheld an angelic scene, and did tremble. And when the grave shone forth with life they were struck with astonishment. Wherefore, they returned to the disciples and did preach the Resurrection, saying, Verily, Christ hath invaded Hades; for He alone is the powerful and mighty One; and He raised with Him all those who were corrupt, and with the power of His Cross He removed the fear of condemnation.

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

Thou wast verily nailed upon the Cross, O Life of all; and wast numbered among the dead, O deathless Lord. Thou didst rise after three days, O Savior, and didst raise Adam from corruption. Wherefore, the heavenly powers shouted to Thee, O giver of life; Glory to Thy passion, O Christ, Glory to Thy resurrection, Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou alone the Lover of mankind.

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

O Mary, the reverend abode of the Lord, lift us who have fallen in the abyss of evil despair, trespasses and sorrows; for thou didst give salvation to sinners. Thou art a helper and a strong intercessor, and dost save thy servants.

## EVLOGETARIA (BENEDICTIONS) IN TONE FIVE

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.*

The company of the Angels was amazed, when they beheld Thee numbered among the dead, yet Thyself, O Savior, destroyed the power of Death, and with Thee raising up Adam and releasing all men from Hell.

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.*

Wherefore, O Women Disciples, do ye mingle sweet-smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant Angel within the sepulcher cried unto the Myrrh-bearing Women: Behold the grave, and understand; for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.*

Very early in the morning did the Myrrh-bearing Women run lamenting unto Thy tomb; but an Angel came toward them saying: The time for lamentation is passed; weep not; but announce unto the Apostles the Resurrection.

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.*

The Myrrh-bearing Women mourned as bearing spices they drew near Thy tomb, O Savior. But the Angel spake unto them saying: Why number ye the Living among the dead? In that He is God, He is risen from the grave.

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

We adore the Father, as also His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity in One Essence; crying with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.

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

In that thou didst bear the Giver of Life, O Virgin, thou didst redeem Adam from sin, and didst give to Eve joy in place of sadness; and He Who was incarnate of thee, both God and man, hath restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

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

### THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIRST TONE RESURRECTIONAL HYPAKOE (Plain Reading)

The repentance of the thief gained him paradise by stealth, and the sighing of the ointment-bearing women proclaimed the glad tidings that Thou wast risen, O Christ, and hadst bestowed upon the world Thy Great Mercy.

FIRST TONE RESURRECTIONAL ANABATHMOI (Plain Reading)

First Antiphony

- + O Lord, to Thee in my sorrows do I cry. Hear Thou my cry of pain.
- + Verily, the divine desire shall be without delay upon the people of the wilderness; for that they have come out of the vain world.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, glory and honor become the Holy Spirit, as they become the Father and the Son. Wherefore, do we praise the Triune, One in might.

Second Antiphony

- + O God, since Thou hast raised me to the hills of Thy laws, shed brightly Thy light of virtue upon me, that I may praise Thee.
- + O Word, hold me fast with Thy right hand; keep me and preserve me, lest the fire of sin consume me.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, all creation together is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and returns to its former being: for He is co-omnipotent with the Father and the Word.

Third Antiphony

- + My soul did rejoice with those who say: Let us go into the courts of the Lord. My heart was exceedingly glad.
- + Great fear shall be in the house of David, where the seats shall be set, and all tribes and tongues of the earth shall be judged.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, it is meet to offer glory, might and power to the Holy Spirit as to the Father and the Son; for the Trinity is one in Substance, not in Person.

PROKEIMENON FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE ONE

Now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set Myself for salvation; I will make no tarrying therein. (TWICE)

*Stichos: The words of the Lord are pure words.*

Now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set Myself for salvation; I will make no tarrying therein.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who restest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.  
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)  
*Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.*  
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE FIRST EOTHINON GOSPEL

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (28:16-20).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: At that time, the eleven Disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Amen.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Reader: In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross for us, He hath destroyed Death by death.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall

teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

#### LENTEN TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE EIGHT

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

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-giver; for my soul goeth early to the temple of Thy holiness, coming in the temple of my body, wholly polluted. But because Thou art compassionate, purify me by the compassion of Thy mercies.

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

Prepare for me the way of salvation, O Theotokos; for I have profaned myself with coarse sins, and consumed my whole life with procrastination. But by thine intercessions purify thou me from all abomination.

*(TONE SIX) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

If I think upon the multitude of my evil deeds, wretch that I am, I tremble for the terrible Day of Judgment. But, trusting the compassion of Thy mercy, I shout to Thee like David, Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.

#### THE INTERCESSION<sup>1</sup>

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our father among the saints Meletios, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; and Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we

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<sup>1</sup> Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

#### KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE PRODIGAL SON (Plain Reading)

Foolishly I sprang away from Thy great fatherly glory, and dispersed in wicked deeds the riches that Thou didst give me. With the Prodigal I therefore cry unto Thee now: I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. But receive me in repentance; make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.

Our Savior teaches us every day with His own voice: let us therefore hearken to the Scriptures concerning the Prodigal who became wise once more, and with faith let us follow the good example of his repentance. With humbleness of heart let us cry out to Him Who knows all secrets: We have sinned against Thee, merciful Father, and are not worthy ever again to be called Thy children as before. But since Thou art by nature full of love for mankind, receive me repentant and make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.

#### THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On February 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Meletios, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; and Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstated in the Triodion.

#### *Verses*

O thou who art like me, a prodigal, come forward with confidence and tranquility;  
For unto all has been opened the door of Divine Mercy.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

#### KATAVASIAS OF THE CANON FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE TWO

**Ode 1.** O my soul, take up the Song of Moses and cry out, saying, A help and refuge hath He become to me for salvation. This is my God, and I will glorify Him.

**Ode 3.** O God, Husbandman of benevolences and Planter of good things, make my barren mind fruitful, for the compassion of Thy mercies.

**Ode 4.** When the Prophet foresaw Thy Nativity from the Virgin, he proclaimed, crying: I have heard Thy hearing and feared; for, O Christ, Thou didst come from Teman, from a holy and shadowy mountain.

**Ode 5.** When night passed, day broke, and light shone upon the world. Wherefore, the ranks of angels praise Thee, O Christ God, and glorify Thee.

**Ode 6.** I am encompassed in the deep of sins, O Savior, and drowned in the tempest of this life. But as Thou raised Jonah from the belly of the whale, so draw me out of passion, and save me.

**Ode 7.** Verily, the youths emulated the cherubim, exchanging glad tidings in the furnace, crying: Blessed art Thou, O God; for in justice and truth Thou broughtest all this upon us for our sins, O Thou Who art exceedingly praised and glorified unto the end of the ages.

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

**Ode 8.** Bless Him Who of old traced for Moses the wonder of the Virgin, in the bush in the Mount of Sinai. Praise Him and exalt Him yet more unto all ages.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

#### MAGNIFICATIONS IN TONE TWO

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

*Refrain:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee. *(Repeat after each Verse.)*

- + For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. *(Refrain)*
- + For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations. *(Refrain)*
- + He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. *(Refrain)*
- + He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the empty with good things, and the rich hath He sent empty away. *(Refrain)*
- + He remembering His mercy hath helped His servant Israel, as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. *(Refrain)*

**Ode 9.** Who of all the terrestrials ever heard or beheld such a thing! A Virgin found with child in the womb, who gave birth to a child without travail? This then is the wonder which hath been fulfilled in thee; and, O undefiled Mary, the Theotokos, we magnify thee.

#### THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Holy is the Lord our God. (THRICE)

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool, for He is holy.

#### THE FIRST EOTHINON EXAPOSTEILARION IN TONE TWO

Let us gather with the Disciples on the mount in Galilee to behold Christ in faith, saying, I have received the power of those on high and those below. And let us learn how to baptize all the nations in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and how He is present with His initiates to the end of the world as He promised.

#### THE EXAPOSTEILARIA & THEOTOKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE TWO

(\*\*Hearken, ye women\*\*)

The riches of grace, which Thou didst give me, O Savior, I spent vainly, wretched me, when I set out on a hapless journey. Living in extravagance with devils, I squandered it in an evil way. But having returned, receive me, O compassionate Father, as the Prodigal Son, and save me.

I have destroyed Thy riches, O Lord, wretched me, squandering it, and submitted myself to evil demons. Wherefore, O most compassionate Savior, have compassion on me, purify me, the polluted one, and restore to me the first robe of Thy kingdom.

O holy Virgin Mother of God, boast and glory of the apostles, martyrs, prophets and the saints, gain the gracious favor of thy Son and Lord towards us thy servants, when He shall sit to judge each man according to his due.

#### AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

For the Resurrection in Tone One

*Verse 1. This glory shall be to all His saints.*

We praise, O Christ, Thy saving Passion and glorify Thy Resurrection.

*Verse 2. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power.*

O Thou Who didst endure the Cross and abolish Death and didst rise again from the dead: give peace to our life, O Lord, for Thou only art almighty.

*Verse 3. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

O Thou Who didst despoil Hell and raise man again from the dead by Thy Resurrection, O Christ, make us worthy with pure hearts to praise and glorify Thee.

*Verse 4. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

Glorifying Thy divine condescension, we praise Thee, O Christ, for Thou wast born of a Virgin yet wast not separated from the Father. Thou didst suffer as man and of Thine own free will

endured the Cross, and Thou didst rise again from the tomb going forth as from a bridal chamber that Thou mightest save the world. O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Verse 5. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.* When Thou wast nailed upon the tree of the Cross, then was the power of the enemy slain; then creation shook with fear of Thee, and Hell was despoiled by Thy might. Thou didst raise the dead from their graves and Thou didst open the gate of Paradise to the thief. O Christ our God, glory to Thee.

#### For the Prodigal Son

(Tone Two) *Verse 6. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

I offer Thee, Lord, the voice of the Prodigal Son, crying, I have sinned in Thy sight, O good One, and have squandered the fortune of Thy gifts. Albeit, receive me repentant, O Savior, and save me.

(Tone Four) *Verse 7. Arise, O my God, lift up Thy hand, and forget not the humble.*

I too have come, O compassionate One, like the Prodigal Son, I who have spent all my lifetime in estrangement, and squandered the riches which Thou gavest me, O Father. Wherefore, receive me, O God, repentant, and have mercy upon me.

(Tone Eight) *Verse 8. I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show all Thy marvelous works.*

When in extravagance I spent and squandered the fortune of fatherly riches, I became a wanderer, living in the country of the wicked. And unable longer to bear their company, I shall return to Thee, O compassionate Father, crying, I have sinned against heaven, and therefore I am no more worthy to be called a son of Thine: make me as one of Thy hired servants, O God, and have mercy upon me.

#### THE DOXASTICON FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE SIX

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

O good Father, I have withdrawn from Thee. Do not forsake me or cast me from Thy kingdom. The most evil enemy hath stripped me naked and robbed me of my fortune; and I have wasted the gifts of the soul in riotous living. Wherefore, I will rise and return to Thee, crying: Make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Thou who for my sake did stretch Thy pure hands on the Cross to snatch me from the wicked beast and clothe me with the first robe, since Thou alone art most compassionate.

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

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, Death is slain, and we are endowed with Life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

#### THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE SIX

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.

- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

#### TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

Today is Salvation come into the world. Let us sing praises to Him Who arose from the grave, the Author of our life; for having by death destroyed Death, He hath given us victory and Great Mercy.

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