

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017
AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS &
CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN THANKSGIVING

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

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.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised: in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

God is known in her palaces for a refuge. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

This is the gate of the Lord, by which the righteous shall enter. (*Refrain*)

Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Entrance of the Theotokos. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the saints..." as on ordinary weekdays. After the Little Entrance, chant the apolytikia in the following order:*

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

APOLYTIKION FOR THANKSGIVING IN TONE THREE

Unoriginate Father, Incarnate Son and Holy Spirit, on this revered day as throughout the year, accept our sacrifice of thanksgiving for all the bounties bestowed upon us. And in Thy mercy overlook our unworthiness that with boldness we may cry to Thee our Creator and Benefactor: O most gracious Trinity, glory to Thee.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

*(**Thou Who wast raised up**)*

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

THE EPISTLE

(For Thanksgiving)

I will sing to the Lord because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Yea, I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:12-17)

Brethren, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other. As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

THE GOSPEL

(For Thanksgiving)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

- *If pastors wish, they may read the famous Thanksgiving Day sermon of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. It was the last sermon he preached shortly before his repose in 1983.*

**“THANK YOU, O LORD!” A SERMON FOR THANKSGIVING DAY
BY FR. ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN**

- + Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed”: Your eternal Kingdom.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for this school¹, where the Name of God is proclaimed.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.
 - + Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.
 - + Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.
 - + Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.
- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual with the following koinonikon.*

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THURSDAYS IN TONE EIGHT

Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.
Alleluia.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate—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, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our fathers among the saints Amphilokios, bishop of Iconium; Gregory, bishop of Agrigentum; Ischyron, bishop in Egypt and hermit of Sketis; Venerable Sisinius the Confessor of Kyzikos, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

¹ St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary of Tuckahoe, New York

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

Choir: Amen.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Agrigentum: ah-grih-GEN-tum

Amphilokios: am-fee-LOH-kee-ohs

Iconium: ee-KOH-nee-um

Ischyron: ees-KHEE-ree-on

Sketis: SKEH-tees

Sisinios: see-SEE-nee-ohs

Kyzikos: KEE-zee-kohs

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