

# Great Vespers of Pentecost

(THE KNEELING PRAYERS)

*This Office, on the Vigil of the Feast of the Holy Spirit, that is, Monday after Pentecost, is usually sung immediately after the Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Pentecost.*

**PRIEST:** Blessed is our God, now and always and forever and ever.

**READER:** Amen. Come, let us worship and bow down before God our King. Come let us worship and bow down before Christ our God and our King. Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our God and our King.

*The priest meanwhile quietly says the Lychnapsia prayers on the Solea*

PSALM 103 (104)

**READER:**

Bless the Lord my soul. Lord God how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. Above the rains you build your dwelling  
You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind,  
You make the winds your messengers, and flashing fire your servants.  
You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak :  
The waters stood higher than the mountains  
At your threat they took to flight, at the voice of your thunder they fled.  
They rose over the mountains and flowed down to the place you had appointed.  
You set limits they might not pass, lest they return to cover the earth.  
You make springs gush forth in the valleys ; they flow in between the hills.  
They give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild-asses quench their thirst.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their song.  
From your dwelling you water the hills; earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve man's needs  
that he may bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer man's heart;  
oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen his heart.  
The trees of the Lord drink their fill, the cedars he planted on Lebanon;  
there the birds build their nests : on the tree-top the stork has her home.  
The goats find a home on the mountains, and rabbits hide in the rocks.  
You made the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time for its setting.  
When you spread the darkness, it is night, and all the beasts of the forest creep forth.  
Young lions roar for their prey, and ask their food from God.  
At the rising of the sun they steal away, and go to rest in their dens.  
Man goes forth to his work, to labour 'till evening falls.  
How many are your works O Lord ! In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.  
The ships are moving there, and the monsters you made to play with.

All of these look to you, to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up : you open your hand, they have their fill.  
You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord last forever ! May the Lord rejoice in his works !  
He looks on the earth and it trembles; the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.  
I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while I live.  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord.  
Let sinners vanish from the earth, and the wicked exist no more.  
O Bless the Lord, my soul.

Alleluia, Alleluia , Alleluia, Glory to You O God + ( *three times - loudly* )

*The priest makes three metanies with + [Lord open my lips etc.] in front of Royal Doors and begins litany*

### THE GREAT LITANY OF PEACE

**PRIEST:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For the peace of the whole world, the welfare of the Holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For our Archbishop (N.), our Bishop (N.), the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For our country, the President, and all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For this city and parish, for every town and village, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For those who incline their hearts and bend their knee before the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** That we may be strengthened to complete works well-pleasing to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** That His mercies may be lavished upon us, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** That He will accept our act of kneeling as incense before Him, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For all who stand in need of His help, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** That we may be spared all affliction, wrath, violence and want, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God in Your grace.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**CANTOR:** 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 always and forever.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

PSALM 140 (141)

*Fourth tone*

**CANTOR:** O Lord, I have cried out to You; hear me; Hear me O Lord. Lord, I have cried out to you, hearken to the voice of my prayer as I cry out to You.

Let my prayer rise as incense before You; the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. Hear me O Lord.

*The Priest censes the Church and congregants*

The Idiomela  
*Fourth tone*

**READER:** *If You retain sins, O Lord, who can stand? With You there is forgiveness.*

**CANTOR:** The many nations saw strange things in the city of David when the Holy Spirit descended in fiery tongues as the inspired Luke recounted. For he says: "They were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And all began to speak in other tongues, other doctrines, other teachings, of the Holy Spirit. "

**READER :** *For Your name's sake, Lord, I have waited for You. My soul has waited for Your promise, my soul has hoped in the Lord.*

**CANTOR:** Many nations saw strange things in the city of David when the Holy Spirit descended in fiery tongues as the inspired Luke recounted. For he says: "They were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And all began to speak in other tongues, other doctrines, other teachings, of the Holy Spirit. "

**READER:** *From the morning watch till night, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

**CANTOR:** The Holy Spirit has always been, is now and ever shall be, having no beginning or end, but one with the Father and the Son: life and life giving; goodness itself and source of goodness, through Whom the Father is made known and the Son is glorified, and is known by all: one power, one unity, one worship, of the Holy Trinity.

**READER :** *For with the Lord is steadfast love and in him is full redemption; and he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

**CANTOR:** The Holy Spirit has always been, is now and ever shall be, having neither beginning nor end, but one with the Father and the Son: life and life giving; goodness itself and source of goodness, through Whom the Father is made known and the Son is glorified, and is known by all: one power, one unity, one worship, of the Holy Trinity.

**READER :** *Praise the Lord, all you nations; exalt him, all you peoples.*

**CANTOR:** The Holy Spirit, light and life, and living fountain of reason. Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding, of goodness and honesty, intelligence and sovereignty, expiating sins. God who deifies; fire deriving from fire, speaking, acting, meting out gifts; through Whom the prophets all and God's apostles together with the martyrs were crowned. Different sounds, a different sight: fire divided into gifts of grace.

**READER :** *For mighty is his love for us, and the truthfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

**CANTOR:** The Holy Spirit, light and life, and living fountain of reason. Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding, of goodness and honesty, intelligence and sovereignty, expiating sins. God who deifies; fire deriving from fire, speaking, acting, meting out gifts; through Whom the prophets all and God's apostles together with the martyrs were crowned. Different sounds, a different sight: fire divided into gifts of grace.

The Doxastikon  
*Sixth tone*

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

**READER:** *(Said not sung)* O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell in us; cleanse us of every stain and save our souls, O Good One.

THE ENTRANCE  
*(With Censer)*

**PRIEST:** *(Silently)* At nightfall, dawn and noon, we sing to You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we beseech You, Master of all, Lord and lover of mankind: guide our prayers aright as an *offering* of incense before You. Let not our hearts be led to wicked thoughts or words, but deliver us all from those who pursue our souls. For it is on You, Lord, Lord, that our eyes are fixed, and in You that we have our hope; do not put us to shame, O our God. For all glory, honor and adoration are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

**PRIEST:** Blessed is the entrance of your holy places, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen. Wisdom! Stand aright !

**CANTOR:** Jesus Christ, The Gladdening Light  
of the Immortal Father's holy Glory ;  
The Heavenly, Holy, Blessed One;  
As the Sun declines we see the light of evening,  
and sing our hymn to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Worthy are you, O Son of God, through each and every moment,  
that joyful songs should hymn you.  
You are the Giver of our Life, and so the world gives glory.

The Great Prokeimenon  
Seventh tone

**PRIEST:** The Evening Prokeimenon. What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

**CANTOR:** *You have revealed Your power among the people.*

**PRIEST:** What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

**CANTOR:** *And I said, "Now I have begun to see. this is a change in the Most High's right hand."*

**PRIEST:** What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

**CANTOR:** *Verse: I remembered the deeds of the Lord, for I will recall Your wonders of old.*

**PRIEST:** What god is great as our God? You are God, Who alone works wonders.

*Now Entering the Sanctuary the PRIEST says:*

**PRIEST:** Again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

*As the faithful kneel, the Priest, also kneeling at the Royal Doors and facing the people, reads the first Prayers aloud.*

**PRIEST:** Lord, pure and undefiled, existing before all eternity, invisible, incomprehensible, unsearchable, unchanging, surpassed by none, not to be calculated, long-suffering, the only immortal One, You abide in the unapproachable light. You created heaven and earth, and all the creatures that inhabit them, supplying all their needs even before they ask. To You we pray and You we entreat, loving Master, the Father of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven to be incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, the glorious Theotokos. At first You taught in words, but then showed us by deeds, when in enduring the saving Passion You gave to us Your humble, sinful and unworthy servants an example of how to offer our prayers in the bending of our heads and knees for our own transgressions and for the failings of the people.

All-merciful and loving Lord, hear us whenever we call upon You, but especially on this day of Pentecost, on which, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into the heavens, to be seated at Your right hand, God and Father, He sent the Holy Spirit on His holy disciples and Apostles. As He came to rest upon each of them, and all were filled with His overflowing grace, they spoke in strange tongues of Your mighty works and prophesied.

As we now pray to You, hear us, and be mindful that we are lowly and deserving of judgment; recall our souls from the bondage of sin. Your own compassion interceding

for us. Accept us as we kneel before You crying the familiar, "I have sinned!" We have been dependent on You from our mother's womb; You are our God. But because our days have been vainly squandered, we are stripped of Your help, without any defense. Even so, encouraged by Your mercies, we cry: Remember not our sins committed in youth and ignorance, and purge our secret thoughts. Do not spurn us in old age; when our strength fails us, do not forsake us; before we are returned to the earth, make us worthy to return to You, and treat us with Your favor and grace. Measure out Your mercies against our transgressions; contrast the depths of Your pity to the multitude of our offenses.

From Your holy dwelling place look down upon the people present here in expectation of Your rich mercy; visit us in Your goodness; free us from the oppression of the Evil One; make our lives secure within Your holy and sacred laws. Entrust Your people to a faithful guardian angel; gather us all into Your kingdom; grant forgiveness to those who hope in You; remit them and us our sins; cleanse us through the work of Your Holy Spirit; put an end to the wiles of the enemy.

Blessed are You, Master, Almighty Lord, for You light the day with the light of the sun and brighten the night with the rays of fire. You enabled us to pass the span of the day and so come to the beginnings of the night. Hear our prayer and that of all Your people, and forgive us all our deliberate and unwitting sins; receive our evening petitions and send upon Your inheritance the abundance of Your mercy and compassion. Encompass us with Your holy Angels; arm us with the weapons of Your righteousness; fortify us within Your truth; make Your strength our garrison, spare us all adverse circumstances and all assaults of the adversary. Finally, vouchsafe to us this evening, and the impending night, perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, free of disturbing visions, and all the days of our lives, through the prayers of the Holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have pleased You through the ages.

**PRIEST:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

**CANTOR:** Lord have mercy

**PRIEST:** Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**CANTOR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For Yours it is to show mercy and to save, O Christ our God, and to You we offer glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

## LITANY

**PRIEST:** Let us say with our whole heart and our whole mind, let us say.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Lord Almighty, God of our fathers and mothers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Have mercy on us, O God, in Your great goodness; we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Again we pray for our Archbishop (N.), and our Bishop (N.).

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Furthermore we pray for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all who live the ascetic life.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, safekeeping, protection, pardon and remission of sins of the servants of God, all the devout and Orthodox Christians who dwell or visit in this city, the parishioners, contributors and benefactors of this holy church.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-remembered founders of this holy church, and for our fathers and mothers, the Orthodox who have gone before us, and who are here or elsewhere have been laid to their rest.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** Further we pray for those who bear offerings, those who do good works in this holy and venerable church, those who labour, those who sing, and all here present who await Your great and abundant mercy.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy. x (3)

**PRIEST:** For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy

*All kneel as before while the Priest reads the Second Prayer:*

**PRIEST:** Lord Jesus Christ our God, You have bestowed Your peace on humankind, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be with us even in this life as a perpetual inheritance to believers never to be taken away. On this day You have sent this grace upon Your disciples and Apostles in a way more manifest, giving utterance to their lips by means of fiery tongues, so that every human race, hearing in our own language received the knowledge of God, and, illumined by the light of the Spirit, emerged from error as from darkness, and in the distribution of visible tongues of fire, and by extraordinary power, were taught faith in You, and were enlightened to speak of You, as of the Father and the Holy Spirit, as one Godhead, one power, one sovereignty.

As the reflection of the Father, the perfect and immutable likeness of His essence and nature, the source of salvation and grace, open the lips of this sinner and teach me how and for what I should pray. For You know the great number of my sins, yet Your compassion will overcome their enormity. For in fear I stand before You, casting my soul's despair into the sea of Your mercy. Govern my life, as You govern all creation by the unspoken word and the power of wisdom, calm haven of the storm-tossed, and make known to me the way in which I should walk.

Grant me the Spirit of wisdom in my thoughts, the Spirit of prudence in my ignorance. Let the Spirit of the awe of You, overshadow my deeds. Renew a steadfast Spirit in my breast, and let Your guiding Spirit make firm my errant mind, so that each day, led by Your good Spirit towards that which is profitable, I may be worthy to keep Your commandments, ever mindful of Your glorious and soul-searching presence. Do not allow me to be beguiled by the world's corrupting delights, but rather to desire the enjoyment of future treasures. For You, Master, have said, that whatever we ask in Your name, we shall without fail receive from Your co-eternal God and Father. Thus I, too, the sinner, at the descent of Your Holy Spirit, beseech Your goodness. All that I have asked, grant me for salvation. Yes, Lord, You are the lavish giver of everything good, giving far in excess of what we ask. You are the compassionate and merciful One Who, though sinless, became sharer in our flesh, and bending in love towards those who bend the knee to You, You became the propitiation for our sins.

Now then, Lord, grant Your people Your mercies; hear us from Your heavenly dwelling place; sanctify them by the power of Your saving right hand; shelter them in the shadow of Your wings; do not spurn the work of Your hands. It is against You alone that we sin, but it is You alone we worship; we know no alien god to adore, not to stretch out our hands to any other deity, O Master. Remit our offenses, and as You receive our petitions on bended knee, extend to us all a helping hand. Accept our common prayer as a pleasing fragrance, rising up to Your blessed kingdom.

**PRIEST:** Lord, Lord, as You save us from every arrow that flies by day, protect us from everything that lurks in darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening

sacrifice. And enable us to pass the course of the night blamelessly, untempted by evil, and rid us of all disturbance and fear induced by the Evil One. Grant contrition to our soul, and to our thoughts due concern for our trial on the day of Your awesome and just judgment.

Transfix our bodies with awe of You, and deaden our earthly members, so that in the quiet of sleep we may be cheered by the contemplation of Your judgments. Distance from us every improper imagining and harmful desire. Instead raise us up at the hour of prayer strengthened in faith and growing in Your commandments.

**PRIEST:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

**CANTOR:** Lord have mercy

**PRIEST:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**CANTOR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** By the favor and grace of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CANTOR:** Amen. Lord, grant that we may be kept this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers and mothers. Praised and glorified is Your name throughout the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, Lord, even as we put our hope in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, Master, let me understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your statutes. Lord, Your mercy endures forever; do not spurn the work of Your hands. Praise befits You, worship befits You, glory befits You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

**PRIEST:** Again, and again on bended knee, let us pray to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

*All kneel as before as the Priest reads the Third Prayer.*

**PRIEST:** The never-failing spring, bursting with life and light, creative power co-eternal with the Father, You fulfilled surpassingly the plan for the salvation of humankind, shattering the unbreakable bonds of death and the bolts of Hades and trampling the throngs of evil spirits. You presented Yourself as a blameless victim for us, offering Your pure body, chaste and untouched by sin, in sacrifice, and by that terrible and indescribable oblation granted us everlasting life. You descended into Hades and broke down its gates, and sojourning among those below, You showed them the way of ascent.

As for the Prince of Evil, that dragon of the deep, You snared him in an inspired lure, binding him in circles of darkness, in Your infinite power made him fast in the nether world, in the eternal fire and the outer darkness.

The glorious wisdom of the Father, You are the great help of those in peril, giving light to those in darkness and the shadow of death. Lord of everlasting glory, beloved Son of the Most High, eternal light of eternal light, Sun of righteousness, hear our supplications and give rest to the souls of Your servants, our fathers and brothers and other kin by blood, and all of the household of faith who have since fallen asleep and whose memorial we keep this day. For in You is the strength of all and in Your hand You hold the far reaches of the earth. Almighty Master, God of our Fathers and Lord merciful Lord of the living and the dead, Creator of all mortal nature, composed and again dissolved, of life and of death, of earthly existence and of the departure hence, You measure out the years for the living and set times of death, bringing down to Hades and raising up, fettering in weakness and liberating in power; You provide aptly for the present and fittingly dispose what is to come, restoring those who are wounded by the sting of death with the hope of resurrection.

Master, Lord of all, our God and Redeemer, the hope of all, at the ends of the earth and far away at sea, on this latter great and saving day of Pentecost You disclosed to us the mystery of the holy, consubstantial, co-eternal and life-giving Trinity, indivisible yet distinct, and in the descent and presence of Your holy and life-giving Spirit poured out its grace upon Your holy Apostles in the form of fiery tongues, making them proclaimers and confessors of our holy Faith, of true knowledge of God. On this universal and salutary feast, deign to accept petitions for those imprisoned in Hades, thus giving us great hope, and relief to the departed from their grievous distress and Your comfort.

Hear us, humble and pitiable, as we pray to You, and give rest to the souls of Your Servants who have departed this life, in a place of light, a place of renewed life, a joyous place, shunned alike by pain and sorrow and sighing. And place their spirits where the Righteous dwell, counting them worthy of peace and repose; for the dead do not praise You, Lord, nor do those in Hades dare to offer You glory, but it is we the living who bless and entreat You and offer You propitiatory prayers and sacrifices for their souls.

**PRIEST:** O God, great and eternal, holy and loving, having deemed us worthy to stand at this hour in the presence of Your unapproachable glory, to sing in praise of Your wondrous acts, be gracious to Your unworthy servants and grant us grace to offer You in contrition of heart the thrice-holy doxology and thanksgiving for the great gifts You have bestowed on us and continue always. Lord, be mindful of our weakness, and do not let us be lost in our wrongdoing, but show mercy as we humble ourselves, so that, escaping the darkness of sin, we may walk in the day of justice, and girded with the armor of light, we may live free of the assaults of the Evil One, and so with courage glorify You the only true and loving God in all things.

Truly great is Your mystery, Master and Maker of all, of the temporary separation of Your creatures, to be united again in everlasting rest. We confess Your grace in all things, for our entrances into this world and our departures, of which our hope of

resurrection and a life of bliss, according to Your certain promise, are the guarantee. May we enjoy it in Your future second coming. For You are both the pioneer of our resurrection and the just but compassionate judge of our lives and Master and Lord of our reward. In ultimate condescension You shared in our flesh and blood and in our passions, willingly assuming them in the depth of Your compassion so that having Yourself been tempted, You offered Yourself freely as helper to us who are tempted. Thus You united us all to You in Your freedom from passion.

Will You, then, Master, accept our prayers and entreaties, and give rest to everyone's fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and children, or of the same family or people, and all the souls that have gone before to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to everlasting life. And place their spirits and their names in the book of life, the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the land of the living, in the kingdom of the heavens, in the bliss of Paradise, Your angels of light leading all into Your holy mansions. And on the day You have ordained, raise up our bodies as well according to Your unfailing promises. In departing our bodies to dwell in You our God, there is no death for Your servants Lord, but rather a change from the more sorrowful to the better and more pleasing, to rest, to joy.

And if we have in any way sinned against You, be merciful to them and to us; for no man is free of stain in Your sight though he live but a day. Only You, Who came sinless to earth, our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we all hope to find mercy and remission of sins. Thus as good and loving God, remit and forgive them and us our failings, whether witting or unwitting, committed in knowledge or ignorance, intentionally or unaware, in deed or in thought, in word, in all goings about. Both to those who have gone before and to us who await, give release and repose, granting us and all Your people a good and peaceful end, opening up to us Your heart of love and mercy at Your terrible and awesome Coming and judging us worthy of Your kingdom.

*And this final Prayer is added:*

**PRIEST:** Great and most high God, You alone are immortal, abiding in unapproachable light. In wisdom You created the world; You separated the light from the darkness, and set the sun, the greater light, to rule the day, and the lesser light, the moon, and the stars, to rule the night. You have judged us, though sinners, at this present hour to come into Your presence, giving thanks and offering You our evening praise. Loving Lord, let our prayer rise as incense before You, and accept it as a fragrant offering. Make this evening and the coming night peaceful for us. Gird us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the terror of the night and from everything that lurks about in the darkness. And let our sleep, which You have given us for rest, given our weakness, be free of all demonic images. Yes, Master of all, source of all blessings, so that, even as we slumber in our beds, we may speak Your Name in the night, and so, enlightened by the contemplation of Your statutes, we may rise, our souls rejoicing, to glorify Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to Your compassion, for our own sins and for those of all Your people, asking that, at the intercession of the holy Theotokos, You will show them mercy.

**PRIEST:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

**CANTOR:** Lord have mercy.

**PRIEST:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**CANTOR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For You are the King of Peace and Savior of our souls, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

### **THE COMPLETION LITANY**

**PRIEST:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, in Your grace. That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us ask of the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Grant this, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Grant this, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** Forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Grant this, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Grant this, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** That we may live out our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Grant this, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** A Christian end to our life, peaceful, free of suffering or shame, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

**CANTOR:** Grant this, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** Remembering our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and each another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**CANTOR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For You are a good and loving God and to You we give the glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always for ever and ever.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Peace be with you all.

**CANTOR:** And with your spirit.

**PRIEST:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**CANTOR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *(Inaudibly)* Lord our God, You inclined the heavens and descended for the salvation of humankind. Look on Your servants and Your inheritance. For they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to You the awesome yet compassionate Judge, not looking for human help but awaiting Your mercy and in expectation of Your redemption. Preserve them at all times and during this evening and the impending night, from every enemy, from all opposing demonic activity, from vain thoughts and evil dreams.

**PRIEST:** *(audibly)* May the might of Your Kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

#### THE APOSTICHA IDIOMELA

##### *Third tone*

**CANTOR:** As a sign to all mankind the gift of tongues occurred. The gentiles were found worthy of the divine light, which was confirmed by the words of the disciples, telling of the glory of God, the benefactor of all. Together with them, let us bend our hearts as well as our knees, and let us worship in faith, steadfast in the Holy Spirit, Savior of our souls.

**READER:** *A spotless heart create in my, O God! Renew a steadfast spirit in my breast.*

**CANTOR:** Now the Spirit, the Comforter, is poured out on all flesh. Starting with the circle of the Apostles, from them by participation it spread grace to the 'faithful; and it attests to its powerful presence, apportioning it to the Disciples in the form of tongues of fire, in praise of God's glory. Spiritually enlightened in heart, and confirmed in faith in the Holy Spirit, we pray that our soul may be saved.

**READER:** *Cast me not away from Your face; take not Your blessed Spirit out of me.*

**CANTOR:** Now are Christ's Apostles girded with power from on high; for the Paraclete renews them, being renewed in them in spiritual knowledge. Proclaiming it in strange and lofty sounds, they teach us to venerate the nature of the God of all blessings, both simple and in three persons. Thus illuminated by their teachings, let us worship the Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, asking that our souls may be saved.

The Doxastikon  
*Eighth tone*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Come, all peoples, let us worship the Godhead in three persons: the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit. For the Father begat the Son before all ages, co-eternal and equal in majesty, and the Holy Spirit was in the Father, glorified with the Son: a single power, a single essence, one Godhead, which we all worship saying, "Holy is God, Who created all things with the Son, with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit. Holy and mighty, through Whom we have known the Father and the Holy Spirit came into the world. Holy immortal, the Paraclete Spirit, which proceeds from the Father and abides in the Son: Holy Trinity, glory to You."

**PRIEST:** Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples: a light to enlighten Gentiles, and glory for Israel Your people.

**CANTOR:** Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. x (3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

All-holy Trinity have mercy on us. Lord, be gracious to us in our sins, Master, forgive our transgressions. Holy One, consider our weaknesses and heal them, for Your 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 always and forever and ever. 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 Yours 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.

**CANTOR:** Amen.

*The Troparion of the Feast    Eighth tone*

**CANTOR:** Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, drawing the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

THE DISMISSAL

**PRIEST:** May Christ our true God, Who emptied Himself, leaving the bosom of the Father to assume our mortal nature and deify it, then ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of our God and Father; Who sent the Holy Spirit, co-eternal divine and of equal power and glory, upon His holy disciples and Apostles, thus illuminating them, and through them the whole universe, through the prayers of His all-holy and blameless holy Mother, the holy, glorious, illustrious, divine heralds and Spirit-bearing Apostles, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us in His goodness.

**CANTOR:** Amen.