

GENERAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

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

People: Amen.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere and fill all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

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.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins, O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, 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 ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: 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 the evil one.

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.

Reader: Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever. Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." From my distress I called upon the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a large place. The Lord is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me? The Lord is for me among those who help me; therefore I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off. They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off. They surrounded me like bees; they were extinguished as a fire of thorns; in the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off. You pushed me violently so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I will not die, but live, and tell of the works of the Lord. The Lord has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous will enter through it. I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, and You have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord, save us, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, to send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we have blessed you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and He has given us light; bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I extol You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.

Great Litany

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, for His Grace, our Bishop _____, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the government of our country, for all civil authorities and for those who serve in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For travellers by land, by sea and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That He will graciously accept on His heavenly altar this present prayer of thanksgiving from us, His unworthy servants, and in His compassion have mercy on us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That He will not despise the thanksgiving of us, His unprofitable servants, which we offer with humble hearts for the blessings we have received from Him, but rather accept it as sweet-smelling incense, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That He will listen to the prayers of us unworthy servants and regard the good intentions and desires of His faithful, and in His bounty always bless His Church, speedily answering the prayers of His people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That He will deliver His Holy Church and every one of us from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, and from all enemies both visible and invisible, blessing His people with health, long life, and peace, surrounding us with His heavenly hosts, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: 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 other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You are due all glory, honour and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

God is the Lord

Priest: In the fourth tone, God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to
the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

People: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I cut them off.

People: *God is the Lord...*

Priest: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

People: *God is the Lord...*

Priest: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing; it is wonderful in our eyes.

People: *God is the Lord...*

Troparia

(On occasions of thanksgiving for a particular parish, the troparion of the saint of the temple may be sung after the "Glory..." followed by the kontakion of the saint after the "Now and Ever...". On a Great Feast, the festal hymns are sung.)

Tone 4

We, Your unworthy servants, O Lord,
Grateful for the blessings You have given to us,
Always praise, bless, and thankfully glorify Your loving-kindness,
Crying to You with love and humble submissiveness: ///
O Saviour and Benefactor, glory to You!

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

Freely You grant us rich blessings, O Master,
Though we are unprofitable servants,
In all our needs we run to You;
You shower us with many gifts!
Now we thank You with all our heart.
We glorify You, our Creator and Defender!
We cry to You
From the depths of our souls: ///
Glory to You, O God most bountiful!

Now and Ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

O Mother of God help of Christians,
You have favoured us with your protection!
We, your servants, gratefully cry out to you:
Hail, most pure Virgin Theotokos!
By your prayers deliver us from every calamity, ///
For you are a speedy helper in times of trouble.

The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: I will sing to the Lord, for He
has dealt lovingly with me.

People:

verse: I have trusted in Your mercy, my heart will rejoice in Your salvation.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the _____.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: (*for occasions of general thanksgiving: Ephesians 5:8-21*
for civil holidays: Romans 13: 1-8)

Ephesians 5:8-21

Brethren, walk as children of light for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart always and for everything giving thanks in the name of

our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Romans 13:1-8

Brethren, let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of him who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath of the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject not only avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law.

Priest: Peace be unto you, reader.

Reader: And to your spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel Reading

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the Evangelist.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Priest: *(for occasions of general thanksgiving: Luke 17:12-19;
for civil holidays: Matthew 22:15-22)*

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."

Matthew 22:15-22

At that time, the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. Tell us then, what you think: Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marvelled; and they left him and went away.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

The Augmented Litany

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (*x 3*)

Priest: We, Your unprofitable servants, give thanks to You with fear and trembling, O Lord, our Saviour and Master, for You have poured Your blessings upon us abundantly. We fall down in worship before Your loving mercy and praise You as our God, fervently crying to You: Deliver Your servants from all calamities, and in Your mercy, grant all our requests which are unto salvation; we beg You, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (*x 3*)

Priest: You have mercifully listened to the prayers of Your servants, O Lord. You have shown us Your tender compassion and love for man. Do not forsake us in days to come, but fulfill all the good desires of Your faithful people. Reveal Your rich mercy to us, disregard our sins, and attain glory for Your name; we beg You, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (*x 3*)

Priest: May our thanksgiving be as sweet-smelling incense before Your majesty, most merciful Master. In Your love for mankind, always send down Your rich blessings upon Your servants. Deliver us from the assaults of our visible and invisible enemies; preserve Your Holy Church; and grant all Your people health, virtue, and length of days, we beg You, most bountiful King, incline Your ear to our prayer, and speedily show mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (*x 3*)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far off upon the sea, and show mercy O Master upon us sinners.

For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and bounties, whose mercy cannot be measured, and whose love for man is an unfathomable depth; with fear and trembling we fall down in adoration before Your majesty, unprofitable servants that we are. We humbly thank You for the blessings You have given Your servants _____. We glorify You, we praise You, we sing to You our Lord and Master and Defender; we fall down before You and beg Your boundless mercy. As You have graciously received Your servants' prayers and granted them, so also deliver Your Church and preserve us from every hostile assault. Grant us peace and tranquility, that Your faithful people may grow in virtue and love for You, and may partake of all Your benefits, and so we will always offer thanksgiving to You, together with Your unoriginate Father, and Your most holy, and good and life-giving Spirit, God glorified in three persons; and will joyfully sing to You: Glory to You, O God our Saviour, unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Hymn of St. Ambrose

Tone 5

We praise You, O God,

We acknowledge You to be the Lord.

All the earth worships You, the Father everlasting.

To You all the angels cry aloud:

The heavens and all the powers therein.

To You the Cherubim and Seraphim continually cry aloud:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, ///

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.

The glorious choir of the Apostles praise You.

The noble fellowship of the prophets praise You.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.

The Holy Church throughout the world confesses You.

O Father of infinite majesty,

Your adorable, true, and only Son, ///

And the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

You are the King of glory, O Christ.

You are the everlasting Son of the Father.

When You came to deliver man,

You did not abhor the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death ///

And opened to believers the Kingdom of Heaven.

You sit at the right hand of God

In the glory of the Father.

We believe that You will come to be our judge.

Therefore, we beseech You to help Your servants

Whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Your saints ///

In everlasting glory.

O Lord, save Your people
And bless Your inheritance.
Govern them and exalt them forever.
Day by day we bless You
And praise Your name forever and ever.
Enable us, O Lord to pass this day without sin.
Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.
Let Your mercy, O Lord be upon us
Even as we have set our hope in You.
In You, O Lord, have we trusted, ///
Let us not be thrown into confusion forever.

Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

People: More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you!

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You!

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

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

Master, bless.

Priest: *(Gives the dismissal of the day)*

People: Amen.