

The Midday Office

(The Synaxis)

[*To be performed after the Public Prayers of Matins or of the Sunrise Hour, when the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated.*]

The Deacon:

Bless, Lord.

The Priest:

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Then the Clerks shall say the Introit, according to the proper of the day, as shown in the Hours-Book (Horologion).

After the Introit has been said, the Deacon shall call:

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord:

Receive, save and have mercy.

The Priest:

Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Then the Clerks shall say the Midday Responsory, and thereafter they shall sing the Midday Chant, according to the proper of the day, as shown in the Hours-Book or in the Hymn-Book.

Then the Deacon shall call:

Proschoumen.

And the Clerks shall sing the Trisagion according to the proper of the day:

For Eastertide and for Sundays of Resurrection:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

Who didst rise from the dead,

Have mercy upon us.

Repeat thrice.

For Theophany and Transfiguration:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

Who wast revealed for us,

Have mercy upon us.

Repeat thrice.

For Presentation, Pentecost and Assumption:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Who didst come and art to come,
Have mercy upon us.**

Repeat thrice.

For the feasts of the Cross, of the Church and for Saints' and Fasting days:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Who wast crucified for us,
Have mercy upon us.**

Repeat thrice.

And when the Trisagion is ended, the Deacon shall proclaim:

(The Great Litany of the Synaxis)

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– For the peace of the whole world and for the stability of the holy Church, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– For all holy and orthodox bishops, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– For the life of our Patriarch Lord. . . (N.) and for the salvation of his soul, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– For doctors, priests, deacons, clerks and for the whole company of the children of the Church, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– For pious kings and for God-loving princes, captains and their armies, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– For the souls of those who are at rest and have fallen asleep in Christ in the true and right faith, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Be mindful, Lord, and have mercy.

– Again with one accord by our true and holy faith, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

— Let us commit ourselves and one another unto the Lord God almighty.

The Clerks: To thee, O Lord, we commit ourselves.

— Have mercy upon us, O Lord our God, according to thy plenteous mercy. Let us all say with one accord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

[The Prayer with open arms]

O Lord our God, accept the supplications of us thy servants, made with open arms, and be merciful unto us according to thy great mercy. Send down thy compassion upon us and upon all thy people, who wait for the abundant mercy which comes from thee.

For thou, being God, art merciful and lover of mankind and unto thee is befitting glory, dominion and honour, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Then the Clerks shall sing the Midday Psalm according to the proper of the day, as shown in the Lectionary or in the Hours-Book.

And they shall read from the books of the Prophets, according to the proper of the day, as indicated in the Lectionary or the Directorium.

Then the Mesedi shall be said according to the proper of the day, as shown in the Lectionary.

Then they shall read from the books of the Apostles, according to the proper of the day, as indicated in the Lectionary or the Directorium.

Thereafter they shall sing the Alleluia, as shown in the Lectionary or in the Hours-Book.

When the Alleluia is ended, the Deacon shall call:

Alleluia; orthi.

And the Priest shall turn and make the sign of the cross over the people, saying:
†Peace unto all.

The Clerks:

And with thy spirit.

The Deacon:

Hearken in fear.

The Priest:

To the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to (Matthew).

The Clerks:

Glory to thee, O Lord our God.

The Deacon:

Proschoumen.

The Clerks:

God speaks

Then the Priest shall read the Gospel, according to the proper of the day, as indicated in the Lectionary or in the Directorium.

When the Gospel is ended, the Clerks shall say:

Glory to thee, O Lord our God.

Then the Nicene Creed shall be said in full:

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of God the Father, only-begotten, that is of the substance of the Father.

God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten and not made; of the selfsame nature of the Father, by whom all things came into being in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible;

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate, was made man, was born perfectly of the holy virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit;

By whom he took body, soul and mind and everything that is in man, truly and not in semblance.

He suffered and was crucified and was buried and rose again on the third day and ascended into heaven with the same body and sat at the right hand of the Father.

He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father to judge the quick and the dead; of whose kingdom there is no end.

We believe also in the Holy Spirit, the uncreate and the perfect, who spake in the Law and in the Prophets and in the Gospels;

Who came down upon the Jordan, preached in the apostles and dwelt in the saints.

We believe also in only one catholic and apostolic [holy] Church;

In one baptism with repentance for the remission and forgiveness of sins;

In the resurrection of the dead, in the everlasting judgement of souls and bodies; in the kingdom of heaven and in the life eternal.

Thus far the articles of the faith.

[The Anathema]

As for those who say there was a time when the Son was not or there was a time when the Holy Spirit was not or that they came into being out of nothing or who say that the Son of God or the Holy Spirit are of different substance and that they are changeable or alterable, such the catholic and apostolic holy Church does anathematize.

The Priest:

Said by (St. Gregory) the Enlightener

[The Doxology after the Creed]

As for us, we shall glorify him who was before the ages, worshipping the Holy Trinity and the one Godhead, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

After the Creed the Deacon shall call:

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks:

Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon:

[The Litany after the Lections]

Again in faith let us beseech and ask of our Lord God and saviour Jesus Christ, at this hour of service and prayers, that he may make them worthy of acceptance; may the Lord hearken to the voice of our supplications; may he receive the requests of our hearts; may he forgive our trespasses and have mercy upon us. May our prayers and requests at all times enter into the presence of his great majesty and may he grant us to labour in good works with one accord, in one faith and in righteousness, so that he may send down upon us the gifts of his mercy.

May the Lord almighty save us and have mercy.

The Clerks: Save, O Lord.

– That we may pass this hour of holy sacrifice and the day now before us in peace and in faith, let us ask of the Lord.

The Clerks: Grant, O Lord.

– The angel of peace to guard our souls, let us ask of the Lord.

The Clerks: Grant, O Lord.

– The forgiveness and the remission of our transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

The Clerks: Grant, O Lord.

– The great and mighty power of the holy cross to help our souls, let us ask of the Lord.

The Clerks: Grant, O Lord.

– Again with one accord by our true and holy faith, let us beseech the Lord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy.

– Let us commit ourselves and one another to the Lord God almighty.

The Clerks: To thee, O Lord, we commit ourselves.

– Have mercy upon us, O Lord our God, according to thy plenteous mercy. Let us all say with one accord.

The Clerks: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Priest:

[*The Prayers after the Lections*]

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who art great in mercy and abounding in the gifts of thy beneficence, who of thine own will didst endure at this hour the sufferings of the cross and of death on account of our sins and didst abundantly bestow the gifts of thy Holy Spirit on the blessed apostles, make us also, O Lord, we beseech thee, sharers in thy divine gifts, in the forgiveness of sins and in the reception of the Holy Spirit, that we may be made worthy to give thee thanks and to glorify thee with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

†Peace unto all.

The Clerks:

And with thy spirit.

The Deacon:

Let us bow down to God.

The Clerks:

Before thee, O Lord.

The Priest:

With thy peace, O Christ our saviour, which passes all under-

standing and speech, defend us and keep us fearless of all evil; make us equal to thy true worshippers, who worship thee in spirit and in truth; for unto the most holy Trinity is befitting glory, dominion and honour, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Clerks:

Amen.

The Deacon:

Bless, Lord.

The Priest shall make the sign of the Cross over the people, saying:

May the Lord God bless you all.

The Clerks shall sing:

The one holy, the one Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Priest:

Blessed art thou, holy Father, very God.

The Clerks: Amen.

- Blessed art thou, holy Son, very God.

The Clerks: Amen.

- Blessed art thou, holy Spirit, very God.

The Clerks: Amen.

- Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Clerks:

Holy is the Father, holy is the Son, holy is the Spirit.

Blessing to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

And the Priest shall take the Holy Gospel in his hands and, standing in the middle of the church, shall pray:

[The Prayer of St. Chrysostom]

O Lord, that blessest those who bless thee and hallowest those who put their trust in thee;

(The Clerks: Blessed is God).

- Save thy people and bless thine inheritance; guard the fullness of thy Church.

(The Clerks: Amen).

– Sanctify those who have greeted in love the beauty of thy house; do thou glorify us with thy divine power and forsake not those who set their trust in thee.

(The Clerks: Amen).

– Grant peace to the whole world, to the churches, to priests, to Christian kings and to their men under arms and to all thy people.

(The Clerks: Amen.)

– For all good gifts and all perfect bounties come down from above, from thee, who art the Father of light and to thee is befitting glory, dominion and honour, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Deacon shall say three times:

Blessed be the Lord's name from this time forth for evermore.

The Priest:

Thou art the perfection of the Law and of the Prophets, O Christ God our Saviour, who didst fulfil all thine economies willed by the Father, fill us also with thy Holy Spirit.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Clerks shall sing with open arms:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

The Priest:

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory unto ages. Amen.

The Priest, making the sign of the cross over the people:

**Be blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Depart in peace and the Lord be with you all.**

The Clerks:

Amen.

And they shall depart in peace.