The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

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THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

PRIEST: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The 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 and for the welfare of the holy Churches of God, and 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 the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our 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 travelers 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: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: 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 other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *O Lord our God, Thy power is incomparable.. Thy glory is incomprehensible.. Thy mercy is immeasurable. Thy love for man is inexpressible.. Look down on us and on this holy house with pity, O Master, and impart the riches of Thy mercy and Thy compassion to us and to those who pray with us.*

ship which cannot be taken away, sealing it with your precepts, O venerable and heavenly father.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator; do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

More honorable 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.

In the name of the Lord, give the blessing Father.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

The First Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul! Blessed art Thou, O Lord!
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 His benefits.
Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.
Who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger for ever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.
As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.
As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.
For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.
As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field.
For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place shall know it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from

everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him. And His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.
The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.
Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word!
Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will!
Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: 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 other, and all our life unto

Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *O Lord our God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Thy Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house; glorify them in return by Thy divine power, and forsake us not who put our hope in Thee.*

For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the

ple of Thy One Spirit, and not the home of many sins. May every evil thing, every carnal passion, flee from me as from a fire as I become Thy tabernacle through communion. I offer as intercessors all the saints: the leaders of the bodiless hosts, Thy Forerunner, the wise apostles, and Thy pure and blameless Mother. Accept their prayers in Thy love, O my Christ, and make me, Thy servant a child of light. For Thou art the only Sanctification and Light of our souls, O Good One, and to Thee, our Master and God, we ascribe glory day by day.

(4) O Lord Jesus Christ our God: Let Thy holy Body be my eternal life; Thy precious Blood, my remission of sins. Let this Eucharist be my joy, health, and gladness. Make me, a sinner, worthy to stand on the right hand of Thy glory at Thine awesome second Coming, through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother and of all the saints.

(5) O most holy Lady Theotokos, the light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my rest, and my joy. I thank you, for you have permitted me, the unworthy, to be a partaker of the most pure Body and precious Blood of your Son. Give the light of understanding to the eyes of my heart, you that gave birth to the True Light. Enliven me who am deadened by sin, you that gave birth to the Fountain of Immortality. Have mercy on me, O loving Mother of the merciful God. Grant me compunction and contrition of heart, humility in my thoughts, and a release from the slavery of my own reasonings. And enable me, even to my last breath, to receive the sanctification of the most pure Mysteries, for the healing of my soul and body. Grant me tears of repentance and confession, that I may glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and greatly glorified forever. Amen.

(at the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great)

Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth, for it was divinely taught by hearing your voice. You expounded the nature of creatures and ennobled the manners of men. O holy father of royal priesthood, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

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

You were revealed as the sure foundation of the Church, granting all men lord-

Prayers Of Thanksgiving After Communion

Priest: Glory to Thee, O God. (3x)

(1) I thank Thee, O Lord my God, for Thou hast not rejected me a sinner, but hast made me worthy to be a partaker of Thy holy things. I thank Thee, for Thou hast permitted me, the unworthy, to commune of Thy most pure and heavenly Gifts. But, O Master who lovest mankind, who for our sakes didst die and rise again, and gavest us these awesome and life-creating Mysteries for the good and sanctification of our souls and bodies; let them be for the healing of our soul and body, the repelling of every adversary, the illumining of the eyes of my heart, the peace of my spiritual powers, a faith unashamed, a love unfeigned, the fulfilling of wisdom, the observing of Thy commandments, the receiving of Thy divine grace, and the attaining of Thy Kingdom. Preserved by them in Thy holiness, may I always remember Thy grace and live not for myself alone, but for Thee, our Master and Benefactor. May I pass from this life in the hope of eternal life, and so attain to the everlasting rest, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing, and the gladness of those who behold the goodness of Thy countenance is unending. For Thou art the true desire and the ineffable joy of those who love Thee, O Christ our God, and all creation sings Thy praise forever. Amen.

(2) O Master Christ our God, King of the Ages, Maker of all things: I thank Thee for all the good things Thou hast given me, especially for the communion with Thy most pure and life-creating Mysteries. I pray Thee, O gracious Lover of Man: Preserve me under Thy protection, beneath the shadow of Thy wings. Enable me, even to my last breath, to partake worthily and with a pure conscience of Thy holy things, for the remission of sins and unto life eternal. For Thou art the Bread of Life, the Fountain of Holiness, the Giver of all Good; to Thee we ascribe glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(3) Freely Thou hast given me Thy Body for my food, O Thou Who art a fire consuming the unworthy. Consume me not, O my Creator, but instead enter into my members, my veins, my heart. Consume the thorns of my transgressions. Cleanse my soul and sanctify my reasonings. Make firm my knees and body. Illumine my five senses. Nail me to the fear of Thee. Always protect, guard, and keep me from the soul-destroying words and deeds. Cleanse me, purify me, and adorn me. Give me understanding and illumination. Show me to be a tem-

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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Second Antiphon

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have being.
Put not your trust in princes, in sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.
When his breath departs, he returns to his earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.
Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.
Who keeps His faith forever; Who executes justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the sojourners, He upholds the widows and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked He will bring to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever. Thy God O Zion, to all generations.
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God,
Who for our sake didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary,
Who for our sakes became man and was crucified, Who is one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: 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 other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *O Thou who hast given us grace with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and promised that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou would grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Thy servants as may be expedient for them: granting us in this world the knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting.*

For Thou art a good God who lovest man, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Third Antiphon

In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father bless.

PRIEST: May He who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, St. Basil The Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; of Saint (patron of this church); of Saint(s) _____, whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Let us depart in peace.

PEOPLE: In the name of the Lord.

Litany of Thanksgiving

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer may Change based on the Feast of the Day

PRIEST: *O Lord, who blesses those who bless Thee, and sanctifiest those who trust in Thee: Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Thy church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house; glorify them in return by Thy divine power, and forsake us not who put our hope in Thee. Give peace to Thy world, to Thy churches, to Thy priests, to all those in civil authority, and to all Thy people. For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from Thee, the Father of Lights, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, thanksgiving and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

PEOPLE : Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord henceforth and forever more. (3X)

PRIEST: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

PRIEST: *O Master, Lord our God, who hast appointed in heaven ranks and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of Thy glory, make there to be with our entrance an entrance of holy angels serving with us, and with us glorifying Thy goodness.*

For to Thee belong 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. Amen.

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend!

PEOPLE: O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Now we sing the variable hymns of the day, the Troparia and Kontakia.

PRIEST: *O holy God: who dost rest in the Saints: who art hymned by the Seraphim with the thrice-holy cry, and glorified by the Cherubim, and worshipped by every heavenly power; who out of nothing hast brought all things into being; who hast created man after Thine own image and likeness, and hast adorned him with Thine every gift; who givest to him who asks wisdom and understanding; who dost not despise the sinner, but instead hast appointed repentance unto salvation; who hast vouchsafed to us, Thy humble and unworthy*

servants, even in this hour to stand before the glory of Thy holy altar, and to offer worship and praise which are due unto Thee. Thyself, O Master, accept even from the mouths of us sinners the thrice-holy hymn, and visit us in Thy goodness. Forgive us every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary. Sanctify our souls and bodies, and enable us to serve Thee in holiness all the days of our life. Through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who from the beginning of the world have been wellpleasing to Thee.

For holy art Thou, O our God, 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PEOPLE: Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

THE EPISTLE

PRIEST: *Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed art Thou on the Throne of the glory of Thy Kingdom, who sittest upon the Cherubim; always now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

READER: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Thy glory; for Thou hast made us worthy to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal and life-creating Mysteries. Keep us in Thy holiness, that all the day long we may meditate upon Thy righteousness. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRIEST: Let us attend! Having partaken of the divine, holy, most pure, immortal, heavenly, life-creating, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy Grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Asking that the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *We thank Thee, O Lord our God, for the participation in Thy holy, most-pure, immortal and heavenly Mysteries, which Thou hast granted us for the good and sanctification and healing of our souls and bodies. Do Thou, O Master of all, grant that the communion of the holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ may be to us for a faith unashamed, a love unfeigned, an increase of wisdom, the healing of soul and body, the repelling of every adversary, the observing of Thy commandments, and an acceptable defense at the dread judgment seat of Thy Christ.*

For Thou art our Sanctification, 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.

PRIEST: In the fear of God, and with faith, draw near!

The faithful come forward reverently, during which time the choir sings, "Receive the Body of Christ," or in local custom, "O Taste and See."

After Communion

PRIEST: Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection! For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection, for by enduring the cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has shown on you! Exalt now and be glad, O Zion! Be radient, O Pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son!

O Christ! Great and most holy Pascha! O Wisdom, Word and Power of God, grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending Day of Thy Kingdom.
O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

PEOPLE: We have seen the true Light! We have received the heavenly Spirit! We have found the true Faith! Worshipping the undivided Trinity, who hath saved us.

PRIEST: *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens and Thy glory all over the earth.*

Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and

READER: The prokeimenon in the ____, tone:
(and the reader immediately chants the prokeimenon of the day)

PEOPLE: *(sing the prokeimenon of the day)*

READER: *(chants the verse of the prokeimenon)*

PEOPLE: *(sing the prokeimenon of the day)*

READER: *(chants the first part of the prokeimenon)*

PEOPLE: *(sing the second part of the prokeimenon)*

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from:
** (from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the_____.)*
** (the catholic Epistle of Saint _____.)*

PRIEST: Let us attend!

READER: *(chants the Epistle)*

PRIEST: Peace be unto you, reader.

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: *(chants the first Alleluia verse of the day*)

PEOPLE: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: *(chants the second Alleluia verse of the day*)

PEOPLE: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

PRIEST: *Illumine our hearts, O Master, who lovest mankind with the pure light of Thy Divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our minds to the understanding of Thy*

Gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

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 Saint_____.

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

PRIEST: Let us attend! *(Gospel lesson is chanted.)*

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

Sermon

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

PRIEST: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

PEOPLE: One is Holy. One is the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Precommunion Prayers

(Said reverently by all who will approach the chalice.)

PEOPLE: I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own most pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore, I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, committed in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

May the communion of Thy holy Mysteries be neither to my judgement, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body.

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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all!

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *O Master, Lord, Father of compassion and God of every consolation: Bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen , and confirm whose who have bowed their heads to Thee. Withdraw them from every evil deed; apply them to every good work and make them worthy to partake without condemnation of these, Thy Most Pure and Life-Creating Mysteries, for the remission of sins and for the communion of the Holy Spirit.*

Through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: *Attend, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, out of Thy holy dwelling-place, from the throne of glory of Thy Kingdom; and come to sanctify us, O Thou Who sittest on high with the Father, and art here invisibly present with us; and by Thy mighty hand impart unto us Thy most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us to all the people.*

O God cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. (3x)

Let us attend! Holy things for the holy!

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for our Metropolitan _____, for our (Arch) Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God _____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Additional prayers are offered according to the local customs.

PRIEST: *O Lord, our God, accept this fervent supplication of Thy servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Thy mercy. Send down Thy bounties upon us and upon all Thy people, who await the rich mercy that comes from Thee.*

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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

THE LITANY OF THE CATECHUMENS

PRIEST: Pray to the Lord you catechumens.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Let us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens that the Lord will have mercy on them.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: That He will teach them the word of truth.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: That He will reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: That He will unite them to His Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Help them, save them, have mercy on them, and keep them, O God, by Thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Bow your heads unto the Lord, you catechumens.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *O Lord our God, Who dwells in the heavens and regards all Thy works: Look down on Thy servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks*

Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: *O our God, the God of salvation, do Thou teach us to thank Thee worthily for the benefits which Thou hast performed for us and still performs with us. Having accepted these gifts, O our God, do Thou purify us from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and teach us how to perfect our sanctification in Thy fear, so that receiving a portion of Thy holy Things with a pure conscience we may be united with the holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ. Having received them worthily, may we have Christ dwelling in our hearts, and may we become the Temple of Thy Holy Spirit. Yes, O our God, let none of us be guilty of these, Thine Awesome and Heavenly Mysteries, nor be infirm in soul and body by partaking of them in unworthily. But, enable us, even to our last breath, to receive a portion of Thy Holy Things, worthily, as a support on the road to eternal life and an acceptable defense at the dread judgment seat of Thy Christ. That we also, together with all the saints who through the ages have been well-pleasing to Thee, may become partakers of Thy eternal good things, which Thou hast prepared for those who love Thee, O Lord.*

And make us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, we may dare to call on Thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: That the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: Having asked for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto

before Thee, Grant them a light yoke; make them honorable members of Thy holy Church; make them worthy of the laver of regeneration, the remission of sins, and the robe of incorruption—for the knowledge of Thee, our true God.

That with us they may glorify Thine all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Let us the faithful, again and again in peace pray unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Wisdom! *Thou, O Lord, hast revealed to us this great mystery of salvation. Thou hast enabled us, Thy humble and unworthy servants, to be ministers at Thy holy altar. By the power of Thy Holy Spirit, enable us also to perform this service; so that standing blamelessly before Thy holy glory, we may offer Thee a sacrifice of praise. For Thou alone accomplishes all things in all men. May our sacrifice be acceptable and well-pleasing in Thy sight, O Lord, for our sins and for the errors of all Thy people.*

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Wisdom! *O God, who in mercy and compassion hast visited our lowliness; who hast set us, Thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants, to serve at Thy holy altar before Thy holy glory. By the power of Thy Holy Spirit, strengthen us for this service; and grant speech to our lips so that we may call down the grace of Thy Holy Spirit upon the gifts that are about to be offered.*

That guarded always by Thy might we may ascribe glory unto Thee: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PEOPLE: Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim, who sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity, and now lay aside all earthly cares.

Great Entrance

PEOPLE: Amen. That we may receive the King of All, who comes invisibly upborne by angelic hosts.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Litany of Supplication

PRIEST: Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For the precious Gifts now offered, 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

This goodness. Prevent schisms among the churches; pacify the ragings of the pagans; quickly destroy the uprisings of heresies by the power of Thy Holy Spirit. Receive us all into Thy Kingdom, showing us to be the sons of light and the sons of day. Grant us Thy peace and Thy love, O Lord our God, for Thou hast given all things to us.

And grant that with one mouth and one heart we may praise Thine all-honorable and majestic Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: And the mercies of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, shall be with all of you.

PEOPLE: And with your spirit.

The Litany Before The Lord's Prayer

PRIEST: Having remembered all the saints, again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For the precious Gifts offered and sanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: That our God, who loves mankind, receiving them upon His holy, heavenly, and ideal altar as a sweet spiritual fragrance, will send down on us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

mercy upon all of them, granting them all the petitions that are for their salvation. And remember, Thyself, O God, all those whom we have not remembered through ignorance, forgetfulness, or the multitude of names; since Thou knowest the name and age of each, even from his mother's womb. For Thou, O Lord, are the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the hopeless, the Savior of the bestormed, the Haven of the voyager, the Physician of the sick. Be all things to all men, O Thou who knows each man and his request, his home and his need. Deliver this city and countryside, O Lord, and every city and countryside from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion by enemies, and civil war.

Among the first, remember, O Lord, His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, His Grace, (Eminence) our (Arch)bishop _____. Grant them for Thy holy churches in peace, safety, honor, health and length of days, rightly to define the word of Thy truth.

PEOPLE: And all Mankind.

PRIEST: *Remember, O Lord, all the Orthodox Episcopate, Who rightly define the word of Thy truth. Remember, O Lord, my unworthiness also, by the multitude of Thy compassions; forgive me every transgression: both voluntary and involuntary. Because of my sins, do not withhold the grace of Thy Holy Spirit from these Gifts here set forth. Remember, O Lord, the Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, and every order of the clergy. Let none of us who stand about Thy holy altar be put to confusion. Visit us with Thy loving-kindness, O Lord; manifest Thyself to us through thy rich compassions. Grant us seasonable and healthful weather; send gentle showers upon the earth so that it may bear fruit; bless the crown of the year with*

to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

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 other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To Thee, O Lord.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRIEST: *O Lord, our God, who hast created us and brought us into this life; who hast shown us the ways unto salvation, and bestowed on us the revelation of heavenly mysteries: Thou art the One who has appointed us to this service in the power of Thy Holy Spirit. Therefore, O Lord, enable us to be ministers of Thy new Testament and servants of Thy holy Mysteries. Through the greatness of Thy mercy, accept us as we draw near to Thy holy altar, so that we may be worthy to offer to Thee this reasonable and bloodless sacrifice for our sins and for the errors of Thy people. Having received it upon Thy holy, heavenly and ideal altar as a sweet spiritual fragrance, send down upon us in return the grace of Thy Holy Spirit. Look down on us, O God, and behold this our service. Receive it as Thou didst receive the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah, the whole burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly offices of Moses and Aaron, and the peace-offerings of Samuel. Even as Thou didst receive from Thy holy apostles this true worship, so now, in Thy goodness, accept these gifs from the hands of us sinners, O Lord; that having been accounted worthy to serve without offence at Thy holy altar, we may receive the reward of wise and faithful stewards on the awesome day of Thy just retribution.*

Through the compassions of Thine only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

for their earthly temporal and corruptible gifts, do Thou grant them Thy heavenly ones, eternal and incorruptible. Remember, O Lord, those who are in the deserts, mountains, caverns, and pits of the earth. Remember, O Lord, those who live in chastity and godliness, in austerity and holiness of life. Remember, O Lord, this country and all civil authorities; grant them a secure and lasting peace; speak good things into their hearts concerning Thy Church and all Thy people, that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and sanctity. Remember, O Lord, every principality and authority; our brothers who serve in the government and the armed forces. Preserve the good in goodness, and make the evil be good by Thy goodness. Remember, O Lord, the people here present and also those who are absent for honorable reasons. Have mercy on them and on us according to the multitude of Thy mercies. Fill their treasuries with every good thing; preserve their marriages in peace and harmony; raise the infants; guide the young; support the aged; encourage the faint-hearted; reunite the separated; lead back those who are in error and join them to Thy Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church; free those who are held captive by unclean spirits; sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel by land and by air; defend the widows; protect the orphans; free the captives; heal the sick. Remember, O God, those who are in courts, in mines, in exile, in harsh labor, and those in every affliction, necessity, or distress. Remember, O Lord our God, all those who entreat Thy great loving-kindness; those who love us and those who hate us; those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we may be; and remember all Thy people, O Lord, our God. Pour out Thy rich

The Hymn To The Theotokos

(*Note: This hymn is variable.)*

CHOIR: All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace; the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child—our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

PRIEST: *With the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles; Saint _____, whom we commemorate today; and with all Thy saints. By their prayers, visit us O God.*

For the salvation, visitation, and remission of sins, of the servants of God _____.

Remember all those who have fallen asleep before us in the hope of resurrection to eternal life, especially _____. Grant them rest in forgiveness of soul, O our God, in a place where there is no sighing or sorrow but where the light of Thy countenance shines on them.

Again we entreat Thee: Remember, O Lord, Thy Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, which is from end to end of the universe. Give peace to Her whom Thou hast obtained with the precious Blood of Thy Christ; also preserve this holy house until the end of the world. Remember, O Lord, those who offered Thee these gifts, and those for whom and through whom they offered them, and their intentions. Remember, O Lord, those who bring offerings and do good in Thy holy churches, and those who remember the poor; reward them with Thy rich and heavenly gifts;

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Peace

PRIEST: Peace be unto all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess.

PEOPLE: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! The Trinity, one in essence, and undivided!

PRIEST: The doors! The doors! In wisdom, let us attend!

PEOPLE: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose His kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Anaphora

PRIEST: Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear! Let us attend, that we may offer the Holy Oblation in peace.

PEOPLE: A mercy of peace! A sacrifice of praise!

PRIEST: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

PEOPLE: And with your spirit.

PRIEST: Let us lift up our hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them up unto the Lord.

PRIEST: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: It is meet and right, to worship the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence, and undivided.

PRIEST: *O Existing One, Master, Lord God, Father almighty and adorable! It is truly meet and right and befitting the magnificence of Thy holiness to praise Thee, to sing to Thee, to bless Thee, to worship Thee, to give thanks to Thee, to glorify Thee—the only truly existing God—and to offer to Thee this our reasonable worship with a contrite heart and in a spirit of humility, for Thou hast granted us the knowledge of Thy truth. Who can utter Thy mighty acts? Or make all Thy praises known? Or tell of all Thy miracles at all times? O Master of all, Lord of heaven and earth and of all creation, both visible and invisible; who sitts upon the throne of glory and beholds the depths; without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, indescribable, and changeless. O Father of our Lord Jesus*

we now dare to approach Thy Holy Altar and, offering to Thee the antitypes of the holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ, we pray Thee and call upon Thee, O Holy of Holies, that by the favor of Thy goodness Thy Holy Spirit may come upon us and upon the gifts now offered, to bless, to hallow, and to show.

This bread to be the precious Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: Amen!

PRIEST: And this Cup to be the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

PEOPLE: Amen!

PRIEST: Shed for the life of the world.

PEOPLE: Amen! Amen! Amen!

PRIEST: *And unite all of us to one another who become partakers of the one Bread and Cup in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Grant that none of us may partake of the holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ for judgment or condemnation. Instead, may we find mercy and grace with all the saints Who, through the ages, have been as well-pleasing to Thee: ancestors, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, teachers, and every righteous Spirit made perfect in faith...*

Especially for our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary.

broken for you, for the remission of sins.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: *And likewise, when He took the cup of the fruit of the vine, and having mingled it and given thanks, blessed and sanctified it,*

He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying: Drink of it, all of you! This is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: *Do this in remembrance of Me! For as often as you eat this Bread and drink this Cup, You proclaim My death, you confess My Resurrection!*

Therefore, we also, O Master, remembering His saving Passion and life-creating Cross, His three-day Burial and Resurrection from the dead, His Ascension into heaven and Sitting at the right hand of Thee the God and Father, and His glorious and awesome Second Coming,

Thine own of Thine own, we offer unto Thee, on behalf of all and for all.

PEOPLE: We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord. And we pray unto Thee, O our God.

PRIEST: *Therefore, most holy Master, we also, Thy sinful and unworthy servants, whom Thou hast permitted to serve at Thy Holy Altar, not because of our own righteousness (for we have done nothing good upon the earth), but because of Thy mercy and compassions (which Thou hast so richly poured out on us),*

Christ, the great God and Savior, our hope, who is the image of Thy goodness, the seal of Thy very likeness, showing forth in himself Thee, O Father—the living Word, the true God, the eternal Wisdom, the Life, the Sanctification, the Power, the true Light, through whom the Holy Spirit was revealed—the Spirit of truth, the gift of sonship, the pledge of future inheritance, the first fruits of eternal blessings, the life-creating power, the fountain of sanctification, through whom every creature of reason and understanding worships Thee and always sings to Thee a hymn of glory, for all things are Thy servants. Thou art praised by angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers, and many-eyed Cherubim. Round about Thee stand there Seraphim, one with six wings and the other with six wings; with two they cover their faces, with two they cover their feet, and with two they fly, crying one to another with unceasing voices and ever resounding praises;

Singing the triumphant hymn, shouting, proclaiming, and saying:

PEOPLE: Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

PRIEST: *With these blessed powers, O Master who loves mankind, we sinners also cry aloud and say: Holy art Thou—truly most holy—and there are no bounds to the magnificence of Thy holiness. Thou art gracious in all Thy deeds, for with righteousness and true judgment Thou hast ordered all things for us. When Thou didst create man by taking dust from the earth, and didst honor him with Thine*

own image, O God, Thou didst set him in a paradise of delight, promising him eternal life and the enjoyment of ever lasting blessings in the observance of Thy commandments. But, when man disobeyed Thee, the true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death through his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment; didst send him forth from paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself. For Thou didst not turn Thyself away forever from Thy creature, whom Thou had made, O Good One, nor didst Thou forget the work of Thy hands. Through the tender compassion of Thy mercy, Thou didst visit Him in various ways: Thou didst send prophets; Thou didst perform mighty works by Thy saints, who in every generation were well-pleasing to Thee; Thou didst speak to us by the mouth of Thy servants the prophets, foretelling to us the salvation which was to come; Thou didst give us the law as a help; Thou didst appoint angels as guardians. And when the fullness of time had come, Thou didst speak to us through Thy Son Himself, by whom Thou didst also make the ages; who, being the Radiance of Thy glory and the Image of Thy person, upholding all things by the word of His power, through it not robbery to be equal to Thee, the God and Father. He was God before the ages, yet He appeared on earth and lived among men, becoming incarnate of a holy Virgin; He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being likened to the body of our lowliness, that He might liken us to the image of His glory. For as by man sin entered into the world, and by sin death, so it pleased Thine only-begotten Son, who was in the

bosom of Thee, the God and Father, Who was born of a woman, the holy Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, who was born under the law, to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who were dead in Adam might be made alive in Thy Christ Himself. He lived in this world and gave us commandments of salvation; releasing us from the delusions of idolatry. He brought us to knowledge of Thee, the true God and Father. He obtained us for His own chosen people, a royal Priesthood, a holy nation. Having cleansed us in water, and sanctified us with the Holy Spirit, He gave Himself as a ransom to death, in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending through the Cross into hell—that He might fill all things with Himself—He loosed the pangs of death. He arose on the third day, having made for all flesh a path to the resurrection from the dead, since it was not possible for the Author of Life to be a victim of corruption. So He became the first-fruits of those Who have fallen asleep. The first-born of the dead, that He might be *Himself truly the first in all things. Ascending into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of the Thy majesty on high, and He will come to render to every man according to his works. And as memorials of His saving Passion, He has left us these things which we have set forth according to His command. For when He was about to go forth to His voluntary and ever-memorable and life-creating death—in the night in which He gave Himself up for the life of the world—He took bread into His holy and pure hands; and having shown it to Thee, the God and Father, having given thanks, blessed and hallowed it, and broken it.*

He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying: Take! Eat! This is My Body which is