

## The Order for the Lesser Sanctification of Water

*If this service is joined to Vespers for the first day of each month as referenced by St Nicephoros of Constantinople (806-815), immediately following the Hymn of Righteous Simeon we halt Vespers and the Lesser Sanctification begins with Psalm 142 “O Lord, hear my prayer.” Following the hymn “Lady, do thou receive” we continue Vespers.*

*If on August 1<sup>st</sup> this service is joined to festal Orthros, it takes place between the procession of the Precious Cross and its veneration. Immediately following the procession of the Precious Cross to the solea at the end of the Great Doxology, the Lesser Sanctification begins with the hymn “O Virgin who didst receive from the angel the salutation, ‘Rejoice!’” Following the hymn “Lady, do thou receive” the veneration the Cross takes place, beginning with “We adore thy cross, O Master ...” Following the Idiomelon “Come, ye faithful” we begin the Divine Liturgy.*

*When the Lesser Sanctification of Water is to be celebrated, a small table is prepared and upon it are placed the sacred gospel book, a wooden cross set in silver (sanctification cross), a hand censer, a tureen filled with pure water, two candlesticks with candles, a small bunch of basil and a pure white towel. After all has been made ready, the service is begun by the priest, assisted by the deacon, each wearing the vestments proper to his order (the priest, epitachelion and phelonion; the deacon, sticharion and orarion). If a bishop is serving, he vests in epitachelion and small omophorion; he says all those priestly parts marked with an asterisk (\*), but may bless a concelebrating priest to say the other priestly parts.*

*The clergy take their places at the table, and the deacon lifts his orarion and intones:*

DEACON: Master, bless.

\*PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen.

\*PRIEST: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, 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, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities for thy 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, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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 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.

READER: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. (*bow*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God. (*bow*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before the very Christ, our King and our God. (*bow*)

(*Psalm 142*) O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in thy truth; hearken unto me in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all thy works, I pondered on the creations of thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear thy mercy in the morning; for in thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt thou quicken me. In thy righteousness shalt thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in thy mercy shalt thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am thy servant.

*In tone 4.*

CHOIR: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

*Stichos:* O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon his holy name.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

*Stichos:* All the nations compassed me round about, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

*Stichos:* This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

*In Special Melody tone 4: "O Thou who wast lifted up on the cross."*

To God's birth-giver let us run now most earnestly, we sinners all and wretched ones, and fall prostrate in repentance, calling from the depths of our souls: Lady, come unto our aid; have compassion upon us; hasten thou for we are lost in a throng of transgressions; turn not thy servants away with empty hands, for thee alone do we have as our only hope.

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

*We repeat the above.*

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*And in the same Special Melody tone 4.*

O Theotokos, we shall not cease from speaking of all thy mighty acts, all we the unworthy ones; for if thou hadst not stood to intercede for us, who would have delivered us from such numerous dangers? Who would have preserved us all until now in true freedom? O Lady, we shall not turn away from thee, for thou dost always save thy servants from all manner of grief.

READER: *(Psalm 50)* Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy; according to the multitude of thy compassions blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned and done this evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my bear me. For behold, thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and with thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offering thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled

God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblations and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

*The Heirmos in tone 6.*

CHOIR: O Virgin who didst receive from the angel the salutation, “Rejoice!” and didst thereafter give birth to thy Creator, save those who magnify thee.  
*(twice)*

*And we continue with the following alphabetical Troparia (composed according to the Greek alphabet which has twenty-four letters), also in tone 6, with the refrain “Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants” chanted before each.*

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

1. We hymn thy Son, O Theotokos, and cry aloud: Deliver, O immaculate Lady, thy servants from every danger.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

2. Boast of Kings, Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs art thou and protection of the world, O undefiled one.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

3. Every tongue of right believers laudeth and blesseth and glorifieth thine immaculate birthgiving, O Mary, Bride of God.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

4. Although I am unworthy, O my Christ, grant me also forgiveness of my trespasses, I beseech thee, through the intercessions of her who hath borne thee; for thou art compassionate.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

5. Upon thee have I set my trust, O Theotokos; save me by thine intercessions and grant me forgiveness of transgressions.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

6. Quicken me, O thou who hast given birth to the Life-giver and Savior; through thine intercessions save me, O blessed hope of our souls.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

7. O Virgin undefiled, who didst conceive in thy womb the Creator of all things, through thine intercessions save our souls.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

8. O all-hymned Theotokos, who through a word didst give birth to the Word, pray him that he may save our souls.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

9. Through thine intercessions, O Lady, make thou thy Son and Judge to be gracious to me, who have transgressed above all men.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

10. As is meet we, who entreat through thine intercessions that we may be saved, cry out unto thee: Rejoice, O pure and ever-virgin Theotokos.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

11. Deliver me from fire eternal and the torments laid up for me, O Birth-giver of God, for thee do I magnify.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

12. Despise not the prayers of thy servants, we entreat thee, O all-hymned Lady, that we may be delivered from every necessity.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

13. Set us free who flee to thy sacred protection from every affliction and pain and danger.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

14. A strange wonder we see in thee, O Bearer of God; for the Judge of all and our God became for our sakes like unto us.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

15. Thy temple, O Theotokos, appears as a priceless cure for diseases and assuagement for afflicted souls.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

16. O all-holy Theotokos, who hast borne the Savior, preserve thy servants from dangers and every necessity.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

17. O all-immaculate Lady, deliver thy servants from every threat that doth assault them and from every harm of soul and body.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

18. By thine intercessions, O Virgin Theotokos, save all who hasten unto thee, and deliver them from every necessity and affliction.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

19. Who that hasteneth unto thee doth not receive speedy healing of both soul and body, O immaculate one?

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

20. Being importuned by all the saints and of the ranks on high, O compassionate One, be gracious to me for the sake of her who gave thee birth.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

21. Spare, O Savior, the souls of our brethren who have died in the hope of life eternal, and loose and forgive the charges against them.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, protect, guard and keep thy servants.

22. Rejoice, O mercy-seat for the world, O Virgin; Rejoice, O jar of divine Manna and all-golden candelabrum of Light, O thou Bride of God.

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

23. (*Triadikón*) We sing to thee, O God in Trinity, crying aloud the thrice-holy song, entreating to receive salvation.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

24. (*Theotokión*) O Virgin, who hast borne the Savior and Master of the world, the Lord, entreat him to save our souls.

*Also in tone 6.*

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoice, O mount; rejoice, O bush; rejoice, O gate; rejoice, O ladder, rejoice, O divine table; rejoice, O Lady, help of all.

*Refrain:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Through the intercessions of thine immaculate Mother, O merciful One, and of all thy saints grant mercy to thy people.

*Refrain:* O holy Bodiless Powers of heaven, intercede for us.

Through the intercessions of the glorious Archangels, Angels and the ranks on high, O Savior, guard well thy servants.

*Refrain:* O holy Baptist and Forerunner of Christ, intercede for us.

Through the intercessions of thine honorable and glorious Baptist, Prophet and Forerunner, O Christ, my Savior, protect thy servants.

*Refrain:* O holy and glorious Apostles and Martyrs, intercede for us.

Through the intercessions of the glorious Apostles and Martyrs and all thy saints, grant mercy to thy people.

*Refrain:* O holy Unmercenary Healers and Wonder-workers, intercede for us.

Through the intercessions of the glorious Unmercenary Healers, O Theotokos, guard thy servants; for thou art the protection and support of the world.

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

*(Triadikón)* We praise the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, saying: O Holy Trinity, save our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*(Theotokión)* O Virgin, who in the last days didst ineffably conceive and bring forth thine own Creator: Do thou save those who magnify thee.

*And the following, also in tone 6.*

Open unto us the door of thy compassion, O blessed Theotokos. As we set our hope in thee, may we not be confounded; through thee may we be delivered from all adversities, for thou art the salvation of the Christian race.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

*The Troparia in tone 8.*

Now draws nigh the time which sanctifieth; and the righteous Judge awaiteth us; but turn thou, O soul, toward repentance, and like the harlot cry out with tears: Lord, have mercy on me.

Thou, O Christ, the Fountain who dost bedew with the waters of healing in the all-honored temple of the Virgin, today through the sprinkling of thy blessing, expel the sicknesses from the infirm, O Physician of our souls and bodies.

Although thou art a virgin, who hast not known wedlock; yet thou hast given birth and remained a virgin still, O Mother without bridegroom, O Mary Theotokos; beseech Christ our God that we may be saved.

O all-holy Virgin Theotokos, guide aright the works of our hands, and beseech pardon for our transgressions, as we sing the angelic hymn:

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, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

DEACON: With strength!

CHOIR: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

DEACON: Let us attend.

*The Prokeimenon in tone 4.*

READER: The Lord is my Light and my Saviour; whom, then, shall I fear?

*Stichos:* The Lord is the Defender of my life; of whom, then, shall I be afraid?

DEACON: Wisdom.

READER: The reading from the epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

DEACON: Let us attend.

READER: (*Hebrews 2:11-18*) Brethren, he who sanctifieth and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

\*PRIEST: Peace be thee that readest.

*The Alleluarion in tone 6*

CHOIR: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: My heart hath poured forth a good word.

CHOIR: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: I speak of my works to the king.

CHOIR: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

DEACON: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy gospel.

\*PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

\*PRIEST: The reading from the holy gospel according to John.

CHOIR: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

DEACON: Let us attend.

\*PRIEST: *(John 5:1-4)* At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the waters was healed of whatever disease he had.

CHOIR: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

*Then the deacon lifts his orarion and intones the petitions of the litany of peace.*

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. *(after each petition until noted)*

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

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy Churches of God and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

[For this holy house, and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.] *(omitted when not in a church temple)*

For our Father and Metropolitan *N.*, His Grace our Bishop *N.*, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our President *(or appropriate head of state)*, civil authorities, and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city *(or countryside or village or island or holy monastery)* and every city and countryside, and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may be sanctified by the power and operation and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That upon these waters there may descend the cleansing operation of the supersubstantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

That this water may be unto the healing of souls and bodies and unto the banishing of every hostile power, let us pray to the Lord.

That there may be sent down upon it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are in need of the help and protection of God, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be illumined with the light of knowledge by the consubstantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord our God may show us to be sons and heirs of his Kingdom through partaking of and sprinkling with this water, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, 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.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For unto thee are due 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

*And the priest says one of the following two prayers.*

PRAYER I
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\*PRIEST: O Lord our God, who art great in counsel and wondrous in deeds, the Creator and Maker of all things, both visible and invisible, who keepest thy covenant and thy mercy unto those who love thee and keep thy commandments, and who receivest the contrite tears of those who are in necessity; for which cause thou didst come in the form of a servant, not appearance alone, or as a spirit, but giving true health to the body and saying, "Lo, thou art healed; sin no more", who, likewise, when thou hadst commanded that (the man born blind) should wash the clay from his eyes, hast given them life, and by a word hast made him to be a dwelling of light; who dost put to confusion the storm of hostile passions and dost check the bitter sea of this life and dost still the heavy burden of the waves of lust: Therefore, do thou thyself also, O King who lovest mankind, who by

water and the Spirit hast given us a garment white as snow to wear, send down upon us thy blessing for the wiping away of the defilement of the passions through partaking of this water and being sprinkled therewith. Yea, O Master, we pray thee: Look down, O good One, upon our infirmity and heal our diseases of soul and body by thy mercy, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all- laudable apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers, and Raphael of Brooklyn; of the holy and glorious great martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the Wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Polycarp, Haralampos, Eleftherios, Joseph of Damascus and Jacob of Hamatoura; of the holy great women martyrs Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Antony the Great, Eftymios, Paisios, Sabbas the Sanctified, Theodosios the head of monasteries, Onouphrios, Athanasios and Peter of Athos; of our venerable Mothers Mary of Egypt, Pelagia and Thaïs; of holy, glorious and wonder-working unmercenary healers Cosmas and Damian, Cyros and John, Panteleimon and Hermolaos, Sampson and Diomedes, Mokios and Anikitos, Thallelaios, Tryphon and Julian of Emessa; of *(the patron saint of the church temple)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all thy saints.

*The priest says the following three times in a louder voice, and each time the reader responds with "Amen."*

And guard, O Lord, thine Orthodox people. *(thrice)*

READER: Amen. *(thrice)*

*The priest continues.*

And grant unto them health of soul and body; be merciful in all things to the Christian commonwealth which serves thee. Be mindful, O Lord, of every bishop of the Orthodox, who rightly divideth the word of thy truth, and of every priestly and monastic order and their salvation. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who hate us and those who love us, the brethren who are serving, the people here present and those who are absent for a cause worthy of a blessing, and those who have enjoined us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them. Be mindful, O Lord, of our brethren in captivity and affliction, and have mercy upon us also, delivering us from every necessity according to thy great mercy.

For thou art the Fountain of healings, O Christ our God, and unto thee do we ascribe glory, with thine unoriginate Father and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*Then the priest gives the peace (see below).*

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PRAYER 2
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PRIEST: O great and most high God, worshipped in Holy Trinity; pre-eternal Nature and super-essential Grandeur; inscrutable Power and ineffable Authority; Source of wisdom and truly unsearchable Sea of goodness; thou, O Master who lovest mankind, art God who wrought wonders before the ages. No mind can comprehend thee, and no word is able to explain. We pray thee now, look down upon us thy humble and unworthy servants. And grant to our mind the spirit of wisdom and understanding, and to our tongue utterance worthy of reaching the hearing of thy goodness and of obtaining the mercy of thy grace; for man's power both to will and to act cometh from thee and from thy vivifying gift.

*The priest says the following three times in a louder voice, and each time he blesses over the water with his hand, and each time the reader responds with "Amen."*

Therefore, O Master who lovest mankind, do thou thyself be present even now, through the descent of thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water. (*thrice*)

READER: Amen. (*thrice*)

*The priest continues.*

Thou hast given our race the laver of regeneration, that we might wash away the pollutions of sin and be rid of all the various illnesses that befall us. Do thou also vouchsafe us, having been thus sprinkled, to keep our hearts free from a evil conscience; and, having bodily bathed in clean water, to bear fruit and to increase in every good work. And grant us always and with unflagging diligence to show sympathy towards the needy and to care for our suffering brethren; and to become worthy of thy compassion, and to obtain the relief from our soul's infirmities and from physical pain. And send down to us, by means of this water, the healings that thou bestowest in thy love for mankind. And let this spiritual ministry which we are performing be not for physical pleasure but for the healing of soul. Yea, O Master, who by water and the Spirit hast given us a garment white as snow to wear, send down upon us thy blessing for the wiping away of the defilement of the passions through partaking of this water and being sprinkled therewith; through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all- laudable apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers, and Raphael of Brooklyn; of the holy and glorious great martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the Wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Polycarp, Haralampos, Eleftherios, Joseph of Damascus and Jacob of Hamatoura; of the holy great women martyrs Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Antony the Great, Efthymios, Païsius, Sabbas the Sanctified, Theodosios the head of monasteries, Onouphrios,

Athanasios and Peter of Athos; of our venerable Mothers Mary of Egypt, Pelagia and Thais; of holy, glorious and wonder-working unmercenary healers Cosmas and Damian, Cyros and John, Panteleimon and Hermolaos, Sampson and Diomedes, Mokios and Anikitos, Thallelaios, Tryphon and Julian of Emessa; of *(the patron saint of the church temple)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all thy saints.

*The priest facing east and with the sanctification cross in his right hand makes the sign of the cross in the air, saying:*

Through their intercessions, guard, O Lord, (thy servants *NN.* and) all pious and Orthodox Christians.

*Likewise, facing west:*

Guard, O Lord, thy servant our Father and Metropolitan *N.*, His Grace our Bishop *N.*, and all in priestly and monastic orders.

*Likewise, facing south:*

Guard, O Lord, this holy house and all who abide herein.

*Likewise, facing north:*

Guard, O Lord, this city *(or countryside or village or island or holy monastery)* and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein.

*He returns to his position facing east, lays aside the sanctification cross and says:*

And grant them health of soul and body and all their petitions which are unto salvation and life eternal.

Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches and who remember the poor.

Be mindful, O Lord, of every priestly and monastic order.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all the people here present and those who are absent for a cause worthy of a blessing. Be mindful, O Lord, of our brethren in captivity; look down upon them all and heal them, and according to thy great mercy grant them all of their petitions which are unto salvation and life eternal.

For it is thou who dost bless and sanctify all things, O our God, and unto thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*Then the priest gives the peace as below.*

+ + + + +

\*PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

*Bowing low, the priest quietly says the following prayer.*

\*PRIEST: Incline thine ear and hearken unto us, O Lord, who didst deign to be baptized in Jordan and didst sanctify the waters. Bless us all who by the bowing of our necks signify our servitude, and make us worthy to be filled with thy sanctification through partaking of this water and being sprinkled therewith. And may it be unto us, O God, for health of soul and body.

For thou art the Sanctification of our souls and bodies, and unto thee do we ascribe glory, thanksgiving, and worship with thine unoriginate Father and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

*The priest then blesses the water, making in it the sign of the cross with the hand-cross and basil. He then submerges the sanctification cross and basil in the water and raises it above his head, holding it with both hands. This is done three times and each time accompanied by the chanting of the Apolytikion of the Cross in tone 1 (once by the priest, and twice by the choir).*

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance, granting to thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of thy Cross preserving thy commonwealth.

*Then, still standing before the table, the priest sprinkles the sanctified water in cross-wise fashion (east, west, south and north), as the choir sings the following Troparion in tone 2.* Make us worthy of thy gifts, O Virgin Theotokos, disregarding our transgression and bestowing healing, through faith, upon those who receive thy blessing, O immaculate one.

*The priest then kisses the sanctification cross. Then the people kiss the cross as the priest sprinkles them and the entire temple or house with the sanctified water as the choir sings the following Troparia in tone 4.*

O holy unmercenaries, who have a fountain of healings, give ye healing unto all who ask it, in that ye have been vouchsafed gifts most excellent from the overflowing fountain of the Savior. For the Lord saith unto you, as unto your fellow-zealots the apostles: Lo, I have given unto you power over unclean spirits, that ye may drive them out and heal every infirmity and every wound. Wherefore, abiding fully in that command, freely have ye received, freely do ye give, healing the passions of our souls and bodies.

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

Attend unto the supplications of thy servants, O undefiled one; allaying the terrible attacks upon us and releasing us from every affliction. For in thee alone have we a sure and certain confirmation and have gained thy protection. May we not be put to shame, O Lady, when we call upon thee. Hasten to the supplication of those who cry unto thee in faith: Rejoice, O Lady, help of all men, joy and protection and salvation of our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lady, do thou receive the supplications of thy slaves, and deliver us from every affliction and necessity.

*The deacon lifts his orarion and intones the petitions of the Ektenia.*

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice after each petition until noted)*

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan *N.*, His Grace our Bishop *N.*, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins of the servants of God (*NN.*, and) all pious and Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this city *(or countryside or village or island or holy monastery)*, (the parishioners, members of the parish council and organizations, donors, benefactors and beautifiers of this holy temple).

Again we pray that he may keep this city *(or countryside or village or island or holy monastery)* and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion and from civil war and from sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us and have mercy on us.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. *(forty times, in four sets of ten)*

DEACON: Again we pray that the Lord may hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners and have mercy on us.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

\*PRIEST: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

\*PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

\*PRIEST: O most-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might

of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all- laudable apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers, and Raphael of Brooklyn; of the holy and glorious great martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the Wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Polycarp, Haralampos, Eleftherios, Joseph of Damascus and Jacob of Hamatoura; of the holy great women martyrs Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Antony the Great, Efthymios, Païsius, Sabbas the Sanctified, Theodosios the head of monasteries, Onouphrios, Athanasios and Peter of Athos; of our venerable Mothers Mary of Egypt, Pelagia and Thaïs; of holy, glorious and wonder-working unmercenary healers Cosmas and Damian, Cyrus and John, Panteleimon and Hermolaos, Sampson and Diomedes, Mokios and Anikitos, Thallelaios, Tryphon and Julian of Emessa; of *(the patron saint[s] of the church temple)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all thy saints: Make our prayer acceptable.

CHOIR: Amen.

\*PRIEST: Grant us forgiveness of our trespasses.

CHOIR: Amen.

\*PRIEST: Shelter us under the shelter of thy wings.

CHOIR: Amen.

\*PRIEST: Drive away from us every enemy and adversary.

CHOIR: Amen.

\*PRIEST: Give peace to our life.

CHOIR: Amen.

\*PRIEST: O Lord, have mercy on us and on thy world and save our souls, for thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind.

CHOIR: Amen.

*The Little Dismissal.*

\*PRIEST: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

READER: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father (*“Master” if a bishop is present*), bless.

\*PRIEST: May (*insert the appointed characteristic phrase*), Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; (*the daily commemoration*); of the holy, glorious and right victorious martyrs; of the holy and wonder-working unmercenary healers; (*the patron saint of the church*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy upon us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

*If a bishop has served the service, the choir chants the following.*

CHOIR: Preserve, O Lord, our master and chief priest. And grant him many years. Many years to thee, master. Many years to thee, master. Many years, to thee, master.

*But if a bishop has merely presided without serving, the choir chants the following.*

CHOIR: Many years, master.

\*PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us.

CHOIR: Amen.

*If a bishop has served the service, the concelebrating priest concludes with the following.*

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy master, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us.

CHOIR: Amen.