

RUBRICS

The Trisagion Prayers of Mercy (with the body of the Departed present)

~ Page numbers refer to the Archdiocese's Service Book / Liturgikon ~

The Bishop is vested in cassock, exorasson, epitachelion, small omophorion and epanokalymavkhon, and, if in the church temple, he may also don the mandyas and pateritsa. The Priest is vested in cassock, exorasson, epitachelion and, if in the church temple, the phelonion. The Deacon is vested in his cassock, exorasson and orarion, but if in the church temple, he is vested in cassock, sticharion and orarion.

If no Bishop or Deacon is present, the Priest says the parts assigned to them, omitting only those parts in brackets [].

The casket is brought into the temple feet first and placed upon the solea with the feet of the Departed toward the east and the head to the west. The casket is open and an icon or cross is placed in it (near the head of the Departed) so that it can be easily venerated by the faithful.

When the time comes to begin the service, the Bishop comes to stand in the open holy doors facing west, and the Priest and Deacon come to stand on the solea to the south of the casket and facing north. An Altar Server brings out the lighted censer and incense.

After bowing to the Bishop, the Deacon lifts his orarion with the first three fingers of his right hand and intones:

[DEACON: Master, bless.]

BISHOP: Blessed is our God ... (p. 183/459)

CHOIR: Amen.

BISHOP: Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.
O heavenly King ...

READER: [Many years, master.] Holy God ... (p. 183/459)
Glory ... Both now ...
All-holy Trinity ...
Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)
Glory ... Both now ...
Our Father ...

BISHOP: For Thine is the kingdom ... (p. 184/459)

CHOIR: Amen.

CHOIR: *(Tone 4 heirmologic)* With the spirits of the righteous ... (p. 184/460)
In the place of Thy rest, O Lord ...
Glory ...
Thou art our God ...
Both now ...
O Virgin, alone pure and immaculate ...

The Deacon takes up the censer, asks the blessing of the Bishop, and then, standing at his place before the casket, censens the Departed while intoning the following petitions:

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God ... (p. 184/460)

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

DEACON: Again we pray for the repose of the soul ...

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

DEACON: That the Lord God will establish ...¹

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

The Deacon gives away the censer, bows to the Bishop, lifts his orarion and intones:

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. (p. 185/461)

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

BISHOP: O God of spirits and of all flesh ... (p. 185/461)
For Thou art the Resurrection ... (p. 185/462)

CHOIR: Amen.²

[PRIEST(s): For Thou art the Resurrection ... (p. 185/462)]

[CHOIR: Amen.]

BISHOP: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God ... (p. 186/463)

¹ Some direct that this be divided into two petitions (“That the Lord God will establish ...” and “The mercies of God...”), with the first petition followed by a triple “Lord, have mercy” and the second by “Grant this, O Lord.”

² Some direct the following be inserted here:

DEACON: Wisdom!
PRIEST: Most holy Theotokos, save us.
CHOIR: More honorable than the Cherubim ...

CHOIR: Glory ... Both now ...
Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)
Master, bless.

BISHOP: *The Dismissal* (p. 186/463) followed by:

May thy memory be eternal, O our ever-memorable ...

CHOIR: Memory eternal. (*thrice*)³

BISHOP: Through the prayers of our holy fathers ...

[PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy master ...]

CHOIR: Amen.

The Bishop, followed by all the clergy in order of seniority and then by the people, comes to stand on the solea and venerates the icon or cross in the casket.

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This same order (with obvious amendments) is followed when the Trisagion Prayers of Mercy are served in the home, at the funeral parlor, at the cemetery, etc.

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³ Some direct that while “Memory eternal” is chanted the Priest censes the Departed from his place before the casket.