

# THE PARAKLESIS SERVICE

## The Little Supplicatory Canon



To the Most Holy Theotokos

## **The Paraklesis or Little Supplicatory Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos**

*NB. When the Paraklesis is offered during Vespers it begins at Psalm 142 below.*

*Priest:* + Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Glory to you, O God, glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who is everywhere present and fills 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, good One.

*[From Pascha to its Leave-taking Heavenly King... is omitted. The priest says instead:*

Christ has risen from the dead, by death he has trampled on death, and to those in the tombs has he given life. *x3*

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *x3*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and for ever, and to 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 your Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. *x3*

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

Our Father in heaven, may your name be hallowed, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest:* For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *x12*

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

### **Psalm 142**

*Reader:* Lord, hear my prayer; in your truth give ear to my supplication, and in your justice hear me. Do not enter into judgement with your servant, for in your sight no one living can be justified. For the enemy pursued my soul; humbled my life to the ground; made me dwell in darkness, like those for ever dead. My spirit in me grew weary, and my heart was troubled within me. I remembered days of old; I meditated on all your works. I made the works of your hands my meditation. I stretched out my hands towards you; my soul thirsted for you like a waterless land. Hear me swiftly, O Lord; my spirit has failed. Do not turn your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Make me hear of your mercy in the morning, for I have hoped in you. Make known to me the way in which I should walk, for to you I have lifted up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, Lord; I have run to you for shelter. Teach me to do your will, for you

are my God. Your good Spirit will guide me in an upright land. For your name's sake, O Lord, you will give me life. In your justice you will bring my soul out of trouble; in your mercy slay my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am your servant.

Lord, give ear to my supplication, and do not enter into judgement with your servant.

*x2*

Your spirit is good; lead me into an upright land.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God. *x3*

O our God and our Hope, glory to you!

### **God Is The Lord... (Tone 4)**

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Reader:* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his mercy endures for ever.

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Reader:* All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Reader:* And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

### **The Apolytikia and Theotokion (Tone 4)**

*Choir:* O humble sinners, let us now run in earnest unto the Theotokos, and in repentance fall down to her and cry out from the depths of our souls: Show compassion unto us and provide your assistance. Hasten; we are perishing in our many transgressions. Turn not your servants empty-handed away; for we have found you, O Lady, our only hope.

Glory be to the Father...

*Choir:* Having seen the sign of the Cross in the sky and like Paul having received his calling from heaven, and not from men, your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his capitol in your hand. Preserve our country in everlasting peace, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, for you alone are the Lover of mankind.

Both now and ever...

*Choir:* We the unworthy shall not ever be silent, O Theotokos, from proclaiming your powers. For were you not concerned to intercede for us, who would have delivered us from such manifold dangers, and who else would up to now have preserved us in freedom? O Lady, we shall not depart from you, for you ever save your servants from evils of every kind.

### **Psalm 50**

*Reader:* Have mercy on me, O God, in accordance with your great mercy. According to the multitude of your compassion blot out my offence. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my wickedness, and my sin is ever before me. Against you alone I have sinned and done what is evil in your sight, that you may be justified in your words and win when you are judged. For see, in

wickedness I was conceived and in sin my mother bore me. For see, you have loved truth; you have shown me the hidden and secret things of your wisdom. You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be cleansed. You will wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear of joy and gladness; the bones which have been humbled will rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Do not cast me out from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and establish me with your sovereign Spirit. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn to you again. O God, the God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed and my tongue will rejoice at your justice. Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise. For if you had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it. You will not take pleasure in burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a repentant spirit. A remorseful and a humbled heart God will not despise. Do good to Sion, Lord, in your good pleasure, and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then you will be well pleased with a sacrifice of justice, oblation and whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

**The Canon (Tone 8)**  
*The irmoi are omitted*

**Ode 1**

*Choir:*

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

By many temptations am I distressed. Praying to be rescued, for salvation I run to you. O Virgin and Mother of the Logos, from all afflictions and evils deliver me.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Assaults from the passions unsettle me, and they fill my soul to overflowing with much despair. Quiet them, O undefiled Maiden, with the dispassionate calm of your Son and God.

Glory be to the Father...

O Virgin who mothered our Saviour God, I earnestly beg that I be rescued from my distress. For now as I flee to you for refuge, my soul and reason I lift up in ardent prayer.

Both now and ever...

My body and soul are alike diseased. Only Theotokos, count me worthy of your divine providence and gracious visitation, since you are good and the Mother of Him who is good.

**Ode 3**

*Choir:*

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

I have named you the shelter and the defence of my life. Therefore, I entreat you, O virgin Maid who gave birth to God, conduct me to your port, originator of good things, the believers' firm support, only all-lauded one.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

I beseech you, O Virgin, dispel my soul's turbulence, also the tempestuous surging of grave despondency. For you, O Bride of God, gave birth to Christ who is Author of serene tranquillity, only all-spotless one.

Glory be to the Father...

Pour the wealth of your goodness and benefactions on all, since you bore the great Benefactor, the Cause of every good. You carried in your womb Christ who is mighty in power; therefore you can do all things, O Lady blessed by God.

Both now and ever...

I implore you to help me as I am now being tried by distressing ailments, O Virgin, and morbid suffering. For I know you to be an inexhaustible treasure plenteous in remedies, only all-blameless one.

### **Troparia of Ode 3**

*Choir:* Deliver us your humble servants from perils, O Theotokos, as for refuge, after God, we all flee to you, an impregnable fortress and protection. With kindness, all-praised Mother of God, look on the dire affliction of my body and heal the pain of my soul.

*Choir:* Look graciously upon your servant, all-praiseworthy Theotokos, and upon my painful physical suffering, and remedy my anguish of spirit.

### **First Commemoration**

*Priest:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray to you; hear and have mercy

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also, we pray for our father & metropolitan, Silouan and all our brotherhood in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all devout and Orthodox Christians, those who dwell in or visit this city, the members of this parish and their families.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also we pray for the servants of God who make this supplication, and for the servants of God [*the commemorations are read*].

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* For you are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to you we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Kathisma (Tone 2)**

*Choir:* O Mother of God, earnestly we cry out to you the wellspring of mercy and the refuge of the world. O powerful advocate, unassailable fortress, anticipate and deliver us from perilous ordeals, O Lady who alone are swift to fend for us.

### **Ode 4**

*Choir:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

I entreat you, O Bride of God who have borne the Helmsman and Lord, to pacify the confusion that my passions bring and the surging waves of my iniquities.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

You have borne the compassionate Lord who is the Saviour of all who sing your praise. Hence, bestow upon me the abyss of your own compassion which I now invoke.

Glory be to the Father...

We who know you, O wholly pure Virgin, to be truly the Mother of our God, have enjoyed so many gifts from you. Hence, we sing this canticle of gratitude.

Both now and ever...

In possessing you as our hope and the stable buttress and solid battlement of salvation, O all-lauded one, we are liberated from all misery.

## Ode 5

*Choir:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Since you bore the prime Source of happiness, impart to me, O pure Maid, your unadulterated joy. And fill my heart now to overflowing with your happiness.

Mother of our God, do redeem us from all jeopardy, since the eternal Redemption you have borne, and Peace that passes all understanding, O Virgin pure.

Glory be to the Father...

Dissipate the gloom of my trespasses, O Bride of God, with the effulgence of your radiance, being the Mother of the divine pre-eternal Light.

Both now and ever...

Cure the weakness wreaked by my passions, O pure virgin Maid. Account me worthy of your solicitude, and by your earnest intercessions give me health again.

## Ode 6

*Choir:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Solicit your Son and Lord to rescue me from the enemies' malignance, O Virgin, as He redeemed out of death and corruption my human nature held down by mortality and overpowered by decay, having freely submitted Himself to death.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

O Virgin, I know you well as Patroness of my life and most reliable sentry. For you disperse a great throng of temptations, and spiteful treatment by demons you drive away. And constantly do I entreat to be saved from my passions' depravity.

Glory be to the Father...

We have you as a protective citadel and the absolute salvation, O Maiden, of our souls, and in straits as a broad way. And in your light we unceasingly celebrate. And now, O Lady, we beseech, from the passions and perils deliver us.

Both now and ever...

I lie now in failing health upon my bed, and there is no cure for my ailing body. But I entreat, O good Lady who gave birth to the Reliever of illnesses, who is God the Saviour of the world, and plead: raise me up from the ravages of disease.

## Troparia of Ode 6

*Choir:* Deliver us your humble servants from perils, O Theotokos, as for refuge, after God, we all flee to you, an impregnable fortress and protection.

*Choir:* Entreat for us, O spotless Maiden who gave birth to the divine Word inexplicably through a word in the latter days, since you indeed speak with motherly freedom.

## Second Commemoration

*Priest:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray to you; hear and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also, we pray for our father & metropolitan, Silouan and all our brotherhood in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all devout and Orthodox Christians, those who dwell in or visit this city, the members of this parish and their families.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also we pray for the servants of God who make this supplication, and for the servants of God [*the commemorations are read*].

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* For you are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to you we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Kontakion (Tone 2)**

*Choir:* O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honour you.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon of the Anavathmoi (Hymns of Ascent) (Tone 4)**

*Choir:* Since my youth have many passions waged war against me. O my Saviour, nonetheless help me and save me. *x2*

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. *x2*

Glory be to the Father...

By the Holy Spirit every soul is given life, by cleansing it is exalted, it is made bright by the threefold Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now and ever...

By the Holy Spirit the streams of grace well up, watering all creation to engender life.

### **The Prokeimenon & Gospel**

*Reader:* The Prokeimenon! I will remember your name from generation to generation.

*Choir:* I will remember your name from generation to generation.

*Reader:* Listen my daughter, behold and incline your ear, and forget your people and your father's house. For the King desired your beauty.

*Choir:* I will remember your name from generation to generation.

*Reader:* I will remember your name ...

*Choir:* ... from generation to generation.

*Priest:* And that he would make us worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace to all.

*Choir:* And to your Spirit.

*Priest:* The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (1:39-49, 56)

*Choir:* Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

*Priest:* Let us attend.

In those days, Mary arose and went into the hill country with haste to a city of Judah. She entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leaped in my womb out of joy! Blessed is she who believed, for the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!" Mary said, my soul magnifies the Lord And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour, for he has looked at the humble state of his handmaid. For behold, from now on, all generations

shall call me blessed! Indeed, he who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is his Name! Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, and then returned to her own house.

*Choir:* Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

### **Post-Gospel Hymns**

*Choir:* Glory be to the Father...

Father, Word and Spirit, the Trinity in Union, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

Both now and ever...

At the intercession of the Theotokos, Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

*Reader:* Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy, and according to the abundance of your compassion, blot out my transgression.

*Choir:* O Lady, entrust me not to any human protection, but rather accept the prayer of your humble supplicant, O all-holy one. Troubles encompass me. No more can I endure all the arrows demons shoot at me. From every side am I under fire, miserable as I am. Shelter I do not possess, and no consolation have I but you. Patroness and hope of the faithful, Sovereign Lady of the world, O disregard not my litany. Do that which is best for me.

### **Theotokia.**

No one who runs to you for help comes back from you ever frustrated in his cause, O Virgin Theotokos. But he asks for the favour and receives the bestowal which is appropriate for his request.

You are a turning for the better for those in trouble and deliverance of the sick, O Virgin Theotokos. Save your city and your flock, since you are the peace of the embattled, tranquil calm of those in agitation, and the believers' only patronage.

*Priest:* O God, save your people and bless your inheritance, visit your world with mercy and pity, exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies; at the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; at the protection of the honoured Bodiless Powers of heaven; through the intercessions of the honoured, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles; of the holy, glorious and triumphant Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers and Mothers; of the holy Equal-to-the-Apostles, Constantine; of the holy and righteous Forebears of God, Joachim and Anne, of Saint N., [*the Saints of the day*], whose memory we celebrate, and of all your Saints, we beseech you, only merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners as we pray to you and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x12*

*Priest:* Through the mercy and compassion and love towards mankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Ode 7**

*Choir:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

As you wished our salvation to be thusly dispensed, you abode within the womb of the all-holy Virgin whom you have manifested to the world as our patroness. O Saviour, blessed are you the God of our fathers.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.



O pure Mother, implore Him unto Whom you gave birth, Who delights in steadfast love, to free from their offences, and from their souls' defilements those who cry out in faith and say to Him: O blessed are you the God of our fathers.

Glory be to the Father...

You have shown forth your Mother as a tower of safety, salvation's treasury, a spring of incorruption, the doorway of repentance unto all those who cry aloud and say: O blessed are you the God of our fathers.

Both now and ever...

Unto us you delivered Christ the Saviour; and hence we entreat you: Deign to heal the bodily diseases and spiritual ailments of your servants who earnestly to your divine shelter run, O Lady Theotokos.

### **Ode 8**

*Choir:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Do not disdain us who need the help that you offer, virgin Maiden, and who bless and extol you, supremely exalting you unto all the ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Virgin, you pour out your great abundance of healings over those who faithfully extol you and exalt supremely your ineffable childbirth.

Glory be to the Father...

You heal the sicknesses of my soul, O pure Virgin, and the physical pains that afflict me. Hence I glorify you the highly favoured Maiden.

Now and for ever...

You drive away from us the assaults of temptations and the onsets of passions, O Virgin. Therefore do we praise you in hymns throughout the ages.

### **Ode 9**

*Choir:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Do not dismiss the river of my tears, O Virgin. For in your womb you conceived and you carried Christ the Lord who takes every tear-drop away from every face.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

With joy, all-holy Virgin, fill my heart to fullness, having received, O pure Maiden, the fullness of joy and thereby causing the sorrow of sin to disappear.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

For those who flee for safety unto you, O Virgin, be a retreat and a fortress immovable, defence and shelter and refuge and joyous ecstasy.

Glory be to the Father...

With rays of your effulgence brighten us, O Virgin, who in the Orthodox manner declare you to be the Theotokos who drives out the gloom of ignorance.

Now and for ever...

Restore my health, O Virgin; for because of illness, I am reduced to a state of tormenting pain. Transform my feeble condition into vitality.

### **The Megalynaria**

*Choir:* It is truly right to call you blessed, O Theotokos, the ever-blessed and all-blameless one and the Mother of our God. Greater in honour than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Offering this chanting of hymns to you, we accord you honour as the Lady of all the world, higher than the heavens and purer than the sunshine, O Maiden who redeemed us from the ancestral curse.

Owing to the multitude of my sins, ailing is my body and diseased also is my soul. O help me, I pray you the hope of the despairing. To you I come for refuge, O Maiden full of grace.

From unworthy servants of yours accept petitions requesting mediation on our behalf with Him whom you brought forth, O of the Saviour. Become our Mediatrix, O Lady of the world.

Unto you the Birth-giver of our God praised by all, rejoicing now we eagerly chant this ode. Together implore with the Forerunner and all Saints that unto us compassion be shown, O Mother of God.

Speechless be the lips of impious men who refuse to reverence your august Icon which is called the Mother of God the Directress, and was painted by the divine Apostle Luke the Evangelist.

Constantine and Helen of noble fame are acclaimed in anthems as the glory of pious kings; and as God's anointed and peers of the Apostles they shine out with the grace of Christ God's exalted Cross.

Join the Theotokos, all you arrays of angelic powers, honoured Forerunner of the Lord, holy Twelve Apostles and all the Saints together, and pray for our salvation, and intercede for us.

### **The Trisagion**

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *x3*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and for ever, and to the 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 your name's sake. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy. *x3*

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

Our Father in heaven, may your name be hallowed, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest:* For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and unto ages of ages.

### **Troparia of Contrition**

*Choir:* Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us; for we sinners, lacking all defence, offer you, as our Master, this supplication: have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ...

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy on us, for in you we have put our trust. Do not be very angry with us, nor remember our iniquities. But look on us now, as you are compassionate, and rescue us from our enemies. For you are our God, and we are your people; we are all the work of your hands, and we have called on your name.

*Reader:* ...Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Choir:* Open the gate of compassion to us, blessed Mother of God; hoping in you, may we not fail. Through you may we be delivered from adversities, for you are the salvation of the Christian race.

### **Third Commemoration**

*Priest:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray to you; hear and have mercy

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also, we pray for our father & metropolitan, Silouan and all our brotherhood in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all devout and Orthodox Christians, those who dwell in or visit this city, the members of this parish and their families.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* Also we pray for the servants of God who make this supplication, and for *[the commemorations are read]*.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *x3*

*Priest:* For you are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to you we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **The Dismissal**

*Priest:* Glory to you, Christ, God, our hope, glory to you.

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, give the blessing.

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, through the prayers of his all pure and holy Mother, the intercessions of the holy glorious, all-praised Apostles, of the holy Equal-to-the-Apostles, Constantine, of Saint *N.*, whose memory we celebrate *[the Saint of the day]*, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

*Priest:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Amen.

### **The Veneration of the Icon.**

*The priest and faithful venerate the holy icon while the choir chants:*

*Choir:* All those who for refuge flee with faith unto you, O good one, you shelter beneath your mighty hand. We your servants have no other intercessor like you always praying to God for us in dangers and sorrows, sinners that we are, bent down because of many misdeeds. Therefore, we fall prostrate before you. Rescue us from every affliction, since you are the Mother of the Most High God.

For all who are troubled you are joy, and of the abused a protectress, the paupers' nourishment, strangers' consolation and a walking staff of the blind, visitation of the infirm, assistance and shelter for the weary and oppressed, help of the orphans as well. Hasten to deliver your servants, fervently we beg you, O pure one, since you are the Mother of the Most High God.

Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and rescue us from all necessity and affliction.

O Mother of God, I have committed my every hope wholly unto you. Keep me under your shelter.