

THE SERVICE OF CHURCH CONSECRATION

Deacon: Bless, Master!

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

Choir: Amen.

PSALM 142

Reader: 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.

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

The choir responds Lord, have mercy **to each petition until noted.**

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, the 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.

Bishop: 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.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY RELICS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The bishop, standing before the holy relics on a table in front of the holy table, reads the prayer:

Bishop: O Lord our God, faithful in Thy words and steadfast in Thy promises, Who hast enabled Thy holy martyrs to fight the good fight and to fulfill the course of godliness, and to keep the Faith of true confession:

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of

righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Be Thou, the same All-holy Lord, entreated of their prayers, and vouchsafe unto us Thine unworthy servants to have a part and inheritance with them; that being followers of them, we also may obtain the good things which await them,

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. Colossian 1:3-8

Through the mercy and love toward mankind of Thine only begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good and lifegiving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Bishop: O Lord our God, through the prayers of our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God, and of all Thy Saints, direct Thou the works of the hands of us Thine unworthy servants; and vouchsafe that we may in all things prove acceptable unto Thy goodness. Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Thy kingdom, of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

PROCESSIONS AROUND THE CHURCH

The bishop and clergy, together with all the faithful, prepare for the three processions around the outside of the church. The three processions represent the setting aside of an area which will be separate and sacred from all other areas. The bishop censes the relics three times, thrice. The bishop raises the covered paten on which the holy relics were placed and prepares to leave the church while the priests carry the Gospel Book and the hand cross. The procession is led by the altar servers, followed by the choir and readers, the priests, the bishop carrying the relics with the deacons are censing him while carrying trikiri and dikiri, and the faithful, leaving the church empty.

As the procession leaves the church the choir sings the following troparia.

TROPARIA IN TONE SEVEN

Ye holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns: entreat ye the Lord that he will have mercy on our souls.

Glory to thee, O Christ our God, the apostles' boast and the martyrs' joy, whose preaching was the Consubstantial Trinity.

THE CANON OF CHURCH CONSECRATION IN TONE FOUR

Ode One

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Christ, Who formerly didst guide chosen Israel with a pillar, through the laver of Baptism Thou hast planted on Sion the Church which crieth out: Let us sing a song unto our God.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Today the visitation of Thine unapproachable glory hath prepared the temple fixed on earth for Thee as a heaven, wherein we chant with one voice: Let us sing a song unto our God.

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

Not by the Law is the Church made fair, O Lord, neither by the stretching-out of servants' hands; but in the grace of the Cross doth she glory, while chanting unto Thee: Let us sing a song unto our God.

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

By the will of the Father, thou didst seedlessly conceive the Son of God by the Divine Spirit, and thou gavest birth in the flesh unto Him Who is motherless from the Father, and fatherless from thee for our sakes.

Ode Three

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Thou hast hallowed Thy Church upon the earth, O Christ, anointing her in the Spirit today with the oil of Thy gladness.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Having Thee as her indestructible foundation, O Christ, the Church is crowned with Thy Cross as with a royal diadem.

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

Thy tabernacle made by hands, O Good One, hast Thou in Thy dispensation shown forth this day to be a habitation of Thine unfathomable glory.

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

Thou alone art become the cause of good things past nature for those upon the earth, O Mother of God. Wherefore, we offer unto thee the greeting: Rejoice.

As the procession around the church begins, the choir chants the first and third odes of the canon of Church Consecration. When the procession reaches outside the front door of the church, the bishop places the holy relics on table, which has been previously placed there. The procession concludes with this next hymn and the Scriptural readings follow.

TROPARION IN TONE SEVEN

Ye holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your crowns: entreat ye the Lord that he will have mercy on our souls.

FIRST SCRIPTURAL READINGS

THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the protection of my life.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, he who sanctifies 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 power of death, that is, the devil, and delivered 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.

Bishop: Peace be to thee that readest.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Bishop: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (16:13-19).

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

Bishop: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples. "Who do men say that the Son of man is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah.

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on the rock I will build my Church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

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

Once again, the bishop picks up the paten with the holy relics, and the second procession around the outside of the church takes place, while the choir sings the fourth, fifth and sixth odes from the canon of Church Consecration. When the procession reaches the front doors of the church, the relics are again placed on the table. The procession concludes with this next hymn and the Scriptural readings follow.

THE CANON OF CHURCH CONSECRATION IN TONE FOUR

Ode Four

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Not with sacrifices of dumb beasts is the Church sprinkled, but with Thy precious Blood from Thy life-bearing side; and she crieth out as is meet: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The dwellings of the Lord are beloved unto them that long to see the glory of His countenance unconcealed, as with one voice they shout: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

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

The Church, portraying the anointing of Thy chosen people, is anointed today with the most precious chrism, and invisibly receiveth the divine grace of the Spirit.

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

Without experience of wedlock didst thou conceive, O Virgin, and after giving birth thou wast virgin still. Wherefore, O Lady, with voices never silent and faith undoubting we cry to thee: Rejoice.

Ode Five

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

On Sinai long ago Thou didst show the God-seer Moses a tabernacle not made by hands, thereby depicting Thy Church, O Christ.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Thou, O Lord, hast prepared a tabernacle on earth; Thou by Thy power dost unite the choirs of mortals with the heavenly orders.

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

We know Thee to be the Well-spring of Life, O Lord; when Thou camest, O Holy One, Thou didst proclaim the good tidings of peace unto Thy Church, O Christ.

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

Thee do we bring forward as an indestructible weapon against enemies; thee do we possess as the anchor and hope of our salvation, O Bride of God.

Ode Six

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Christ the King hath now desired the beauty of the august Church, and hath showed her to be the Mother of the nations, which have been adopted out of servitude through the Spirit.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The hosts of hostile demons quake before Christ's Church, which is signed with the sign of the Cross and overshadowed by the Spirit's sanctifying illumination.

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

Since the Church of the nations hath not sand, but Christ, as her foundation, she is crowned with unapproachable beauty and is made fair with the diadem of the Kingdom.

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

O wonder stranger than any wonder! how the Virgin, while conceiving in her womb without experience of a man Him that holdeth all things, did not straiten Him at all.

TROPARION IN TONE SEVEN

Glory to thee, O Christ our God, the Apostles' boast, the Martyrs' joy, whose preaching was the Consubstantial Trinity.

SECOND SCRIPTURAL READINGS

THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: She shall be brought unto the King; the virgins that follow her shall be brought unto Thee.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (9:1-7).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly Altar.

For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place.

Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden Altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded and the tables of the covenant, above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.

Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

These preparations having thus been made, the Priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high Priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

Bishop: Peace be to thee that readest.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Bishop: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (10:38-42).

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

Bishop: Now as they went on their way Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.

But Martha was distracted with much serving and she went to Him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."

But the Lord answered her. "Martha, Martha you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

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

Once again, the bishop picks up the paten with the holy relics, and the final procession takes place around the outside of the church. The choir continues to sing the seventh, eighth and ninth odes of the canon of Church Consecration. At the end of the third procession, the bishop places the paten on the table. The procession concludes with this next hymn.

THE CANON OF CHURCH CONSECRATION IN TONE FOUR

Ode Seven

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The flame in the furnace once sprinkled dew; but now a spiritual anointing of oil sanctifieth them that shout: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

As we of the spiritual Israel are all bedewed in this new God-receiving tabernacle as in that furnace, let us cry out: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

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

Ye that be wounded with the sweetest divine longing, come, let us be united to Christ the Bridegroom in this mystical bride-chamber, as we shout: Blessed art Thou, the Lord of Glory.

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

Rejoice, O sanctified and divine tabernacle of the Most High; for through thee, O Theotokos, joy is given to them that cry: Blessed art thou among women, O all-immaculate Lady.

Ode Eight

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Today Thy Church is arrayed like a bride in a spiritual robe woven of divine grace from on high, O Lord; and she biddeth her own peoples unto jubilation, that they might sing: O all ye works, bless ye the Lord.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Today hath the second Adam, Christ, shown this new tabernacle to be a spiritual Paradise, which beareth, instead of the tree of knowledge, the life-giving weapon of the Cross for them that chant: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

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

As we reverence Thee, the Son Who art of the unoriginate Father, and also the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, perfect, without beginning, undivided, consubstantial, unmingled in Three Hypostases, we chant: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

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

Thou alone in all generations hast proved to be the Mother of God, O immaculate Virgin. Thou becamest the dwelling-place of the Godhead, O all-blameless one, and wast not burned by the fire of the unapproachable Light. Wherefore, we all bless thee, O Mary, thou Bride of God.

Ode Nine

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Come ye, and considering with pure heart and sober eyes of the mind the beauty of the King's daughter, the Church, which shineth brighter than gold, let us magnify her.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Rejoice and be glad, O Bride of the Great King, as thou brightly reflectest the beauty of thy Bridegroom, while crying out with thy people: Thee do we magnify, O Giver of Life.

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

Defend Thy Church from on high, O Savior. For she knoweth none other besides Thee, Who of old didst lay down Thy life for her sake, O Friend of man; and in full knowledge she glorifieth Thee.

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

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, Bride of the Great King. For through thee we have all been delivered from the curse of Eve, O pure and unwedded Virgin, and through thy conceiving we have found life.

TROPARION IN TONE THREE

O Christ our God, Who didst build Thy Church upon the rock of faith, direct our petitions and receive Thy people who in faith cry unto Thee: Save us, O our God.

Bishop: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

FIRST PRAYER

The bishop then offers a shorter prayer in which he asks God to protect His new house of worship.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: Blessed art Thou forever, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who through the veil of His flesh hath consecrated for us an entrance into the Church of the firstborn who are written in heaven, where is the abode of those who rejoice, and the voice of gladness.

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Do Thou, the same Lord Who lovest mankind, look upon us Thy sinful and unworthy servants who now celebrate the consecration of this holy church in honor of (patron saint or feast of the church) after the pattern of Thy most holy Church, that is, of your own body, which Thou hast vouchsafed unto us, according to Thine all-laudable Apostle Paul, to call Thy Church; and establish it immovable unto the end of time and glorified in Thee.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22,23

See also: I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 5, Romans 12 and many others.

And vouchsafe that, without condemnation, we may offer therein praises and exaltations unto Thy glory, and unto Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Thy Holy Spirit, with understanding, and with all emotion and that those who worship Thee in Thy fear may show themselves worthy of Thy divine tender mercies; and that these prayers offered up by us and by all Thy people unto Thine ineffable loving kindness may be acceptable unto Thy goodness, through the prayers of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and EverVirgin Mary, For holy art Thou, O our God, Who retest in the Saints, and unto Thee do 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.

SECOND PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Master, Lord our God, Who hast appointed in heaven orders and armies of angels and archangels for the ministry of Thy glory: Grant that there may be with our entrance, the entrance of Thy holy angels, ministering with us and glorifying with us Thy goodness. 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.

The bishop, standing in front of the doors of the church, knocks three times on the closed doors with the hand cross, saying in a loud voice:

Bishop: Lift up your gates, O princes; and be lifted up, O everlasting gates, that the King of glory may come in.

A person, who has remained inside the darkened church, responds to the bishop:

Response: Who is this King of glory?

Bishop: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in war.

Knocking again, the bishop says:

Bishop: Lift up your gates, O princes; and be lifted up, O everlasting gates, that the King of glory may come in.

Response: Who is this King of glory?

Bishop: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in war.

Knocking again, the bishop says:

Bishop: Lift up your gates, O princes; and be lifted up, O everlasting gates, that the King of glory may come in.

Response: Who is this King of glory?

Holding the relics in his hands, the bishop makes the sign of the cross in front of the door saying:

Bishop: The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

The table is moved out of the way, the doors are opened, the bishop enters the church carrying the holy relics, followed by all the clergy and the congregation as the following hymn is chanted:

Compare to Pascha. See Psalm 23(24)

APOLYTIKION OF CHURCH CONSECRATION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast revealed the earthly majesty of the dwelling place of the holy glory, O Lord, as the brilliance of the firmament on high. Make firm its foundation unto ages of ages and receive our fervent supplications which are offered to thee therein; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Life and Resurrection of all.

THE PLACING OF THE HOLY RELICS

The bishop enters the sanctuary, carrying the paten with the holy relics. He uncovers the paten and lifts the star. The deacon gives the priest the Chrism and the reliquary in which to place the relics, as well as the melted wax and mastic. The bishop places the relics in the reliquary and anoints it with Chrism, saying:

Bishop: Eternal be the memory of the founders of this holy church.

Choir: Memory eternal. (thrice)

The bishop pours the wax into the reliquary and places it in the holy altar, or in its designated spot. (At this time, if the bishop is also consecrating the antimimension, he will anoint it with Chrism, place the relics in the antimimension, and, using a small teaspoon, pour wax and mastic on the relics pocket to seal it.)

FIRST PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord our God, Who granted the holy martyrs who suffered for Thy sake this glory also, that their relics should be sown in all the earth, in Thy holy churches, and should bring forth fruits of healing: Master and the giver of all good things, through the intercession of thy holy saints, whose relics Thou hast graciously permitted to be placed in Thy venerable altar, enable us without condemnation to offer the bloodless sacrifice to Thee on it.

And grant us all those petitions that are for our salvation, granting also that the relics in it of those who have suffered for Thy holy name may work miracles for our salvation,

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

SECOND PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord God our Savior, Who doest all things, and has brought to pass the salvation of the race of man, receive the prayers of Thine unworthy servants, and make us worthy in this present hour, without condemnation, to perform the consecration of this temple for our salvation, and for Thy Glory, established upon the name of (**patron saint or feast of the church**) which is signified in this table. 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.

While the choir chants Psalms 144 and 22, the bishop places a list of the living and departed members of the church into a specially prepared niche in the altar. He then places the reliquary into the niche. A cover is placed over the niche and the cover is sealed in place with hot wax. The excess wax is cleaned off the altar.

PSALM 144

I will exalt Thee, O my God, my king, and I will bless Thy name for ever, yea, for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name for ever, yea, for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord and exceedingly to be praised, and of His greatness there is no end.
Generation and generation shall praise Thy works, and Thy power shall they declare.
Of the majesty of the glory of Thy holiness shall they speak, and they shall tell of Thy wonders.
And the power of Thine awesome deeds shall they relate, and they shall tell of Thy majesty.
The memory of the multitude of Thy goodness shall they pour forth, and in Thy righteousness shall they rejoice.

Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy.

The Lord is good to all, and His compassions are over all His works.

Let all Thy works, O Lord, give praise to Thee, and let Thy righteous ones bless Thee.

Of the glory of Thy kingdom shall they speak, and shall tell of Thy dominion, To make Thy dominion known to the sons of men, and the glory of the majesty of Thy kingdom.

Thy kingdom is the kingdom of all the ages, and Thy sovereignty is in every generation and generation.

Faithful is the Lord in all His words, and holy in all His works.

The Lord upholdeth all that are falling, and setteth up all that are broken down.

The eyes of all look to Thee with hope, and Thou gavest them their food in due season.

Thou openest Thy hand and fillest every living thing with Thy favour.

Righteous is the Lord in all His ways, and holy in all His works.

The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him, to all that call on Him in truth.

The will of them that fear Him shall He do, and their supplication shall He hear, and He shall save them.

The Lord preserveth all that love Him, but all the sinners shall He utterly destroy.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy name, forever, yea, for ever and ever.

PSALM 22

The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want.

In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell; beside the water of rest hath He nurtured me.

He hath converted my soul, He hath led me on the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff, they have comforted me.

Thou hast prepared a table for me in the presence of them that afflict me.

Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and Thy cup which filleth me, how excellent it is!

And Thy mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord unto length of days.

Once the psalms are completed, the bishop sets his miter aside and wears his white sticharion over his vestments.

Bishop: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE BENDING OF THE KNEES

The deacons place a carpet facing the altar in the middle of the solea. The bishop and clergy, with the deacons carrying trikiri and dikiri, exit the sanctuary and stand on the carpet.

Deacon: Again and again, bending on our knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

All kneel as the bishop faces east and prays aloud:

Bishop: O God, beginningless and eternal, Thou hast brought all things from nothingness into being. Thou dwellest in light unapproachable, and hast the heavens for Thy throne, and the earth for Thy footstool.

Thou gavest a command and pattern to Moses and inspired Bezaleel with the spirit of wisdom, and thus enabled them to complete the Tabernacle of Covenant, wherein ordinances of divine worship were instituted, which were the images and types of the truth.

The LORD said to Moses, "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft." --- Exodus 31.1--5 (ESV)

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy --- the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren." --- Luke 1.34--36 (ESV)

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, [b]badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. Exodus 25:1-9

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the [sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." But now He has obtained a

more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. Hebrews 8:1-6

Thou didst bestow on Solomon breadth and greatness of heart, and through him Thou didst raise the Temple of old; and later, through Thine holy and allaudable apostles, Thou didst inaugurate worship in the Spirit and the grace of the true Tabernacle;

and through Thine apostles, O Lord of Hosts, Thou hast planted Thy holy churches and Thine altars throughout the world, so that spiritual and bloodless sacrifices might be offered unto Thee.

Thou hast also been well-pleased that this Church was built in the name of (patron saint or feast of the church), to Thy glory of Thine only-begotten Son and Thine allholy Spirit.

O immortal and munificent King, remember Thy loving-kindness and thy mercies which are eternal, and do not abhor us who are defiled by many sins, nor degrade Thy covenant because of our impurity.

But now rather overlook our offences; and, by the grace and decent of Thy holy and life-giving Spirit, strengthen and enable us to perform, without condemnation, the consecration of this sanctuary and the dedication of the Altar in it, so that in this, too, we may bless Thee in Psalms and hymns and mystical ceremonies and magnify Thy compassion at all times.

Yea, O Master, Lord our God, the hope of all the ends of the earth: hear us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and send down Thine all-holy, worshipful, and almighty Spirit, and sanctify this house.

Fill it with eternal light; choose it for Thy dwelling; make it the place where Thy glory dwelleth.

Adorn it with Thy divine and transcendent gifts.

Make it a harbor for the storm-tossed, a healing clinic, a refuge for the weak, a place where demons are driven out.

Let Thine eyes watch over it day and night, and let Thine ears be attentive to the supplication of those who enter it with the fear of Thee and with reverence, and who call on Thine all-honorable and worshipful name.

And thus, whatever they shall ask of Thee, Thou shalt hear it in heaven above and shalt do it, and be gracious to them.

Keep it indestructible until the end of time, and make the Altar herein a holy of holies, by the power and action of Thine all-holy Spirit.

Glorify it more than the mercy seat of the Old Testament; that the sacraments that are celebrated here may reach Thy holy, heavenly and spiritual Altar, and obtain for us the grace of Thy most pure overshadowing.

We trust not in the ministrations of our unworthy hands, but in Thine ineffable goodness.

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon spoke:

“The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

I have surely built You an exalted house,

And a place for You to dwell in forever.”

Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. And he said: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father

David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.' Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. But the Lord said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.' So the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: "Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day. Therefore, Lord God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.' And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

"When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

"When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

"When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

"Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake(for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

"When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them(for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace), that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You. For You separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You spoke by Your servant Moses, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God." I Kings (3 Kingdoms) 8:10-53

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The bishop rises and enters the sanctuary with the clergy, standing before the altar.

LITANY

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

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

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, 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.

For our father and metropolitan, N., and the work of his hands, and the reverend clergy here with him, let us pray to the Lord.

That this altar may be sanctified by the descent and the action of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city 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.

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, the Theotokos and evervirgin 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.

Bishop: For holy art Thou, O our God, who dwellest in the midst of the martyrs who suffered for Thee, 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 WASHING OF THE HOLY TABLE

The soap bars are brought to the holy table which the bishop blesses on the holy table in the shape of a cross. A vessel of warm water is brought to the bishop which he also blesses.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord our God, Who didst sanctify the streams of Jordan by Thy redeeming manifestation; do Thou, the same Lord, send down now also the grace of Thy Holy Spirit and bless this water unto the sanctification and completion of this, Thine altar; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages.

Compare to baptism

Choir: Amen.

The bishop then pours water on the holy table three times, saying:

Bishop: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages, of ages. Amen.

While the choir chants Psalm 83, the bishop and priests now wash the top of the holy table with soap and then dry it with white linen towels.

PSALM 83

How beloved are Thy dwellings, O Lord of hosts; my soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God.

For the sparrow hath found herself a house, and the turtledove a nest for herself where she may lay her young,

Even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house; unto ages of ages shall they praise Thee.

Blessed is the man whose help is from Thee; he hath made ascents in his heart, in the vale of weeping, in the place which he hath appointed.

Yea, for the lawgiver will give blessings; they shall go from strength to strength, the God of gods shall be seen in Sion.

O Lord of hosts, hearken unto my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.

O God, our defender, behold, and look upon the face of Thine anointed one.

For better is one day in Thy courts than thousands elsewhere.

I have chosen rather to be an outcast in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of sinners.

For the Lord loveth mercy and truth, God will give grace and glory; the Lord will not withhold good things from them that walk in innocence.

O Lord God of hosts, blessed is the man that hopeth in Thee.

Once the table is dried, the bishop continues:

Bishop: Glory to our God unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY TABLE

The bishop sprinkles rosewater on the holy table, as he recites three times (from Psalm 50:7):

Bishop: Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Thou shalt wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow.

The choir repeats the above verse, in tone seven, each time the bishop says it, then continues with the following.

PSALM 50:8-19

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 wholeburnt offerings 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 oblation and whole-burnt offerings.

Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The priests spread the rosewater on the holy table with their hands. Then, the bishop and the priests are given sponges to wipe it. Once that is done, the bishop exclaims:

Bishop: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Chrism is brought to the bishop, who pours it onto the holy table in three places, thrice: once in the upper middle of the altar, and on each side, but slightly lower. The deacon says the following at each cross.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Bishop: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The bishop then anoints each leg of the altar, and using his hands, he spreads the Chrism all over the top. The choir chants the following:

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The antimention that are to be consecrated are brought forward and placed stacked on the holy table, beneath the crosses of Chrism. The bishop anoints each antimention thrice with Chrism, repeating the above dialogue. He then raises each antimention and dries the holy table that holds them, placing them aside on a tray, as the choir chants Psalm 132.

PSALM 132

Behold now, what is so good or so joyous as for brethren to dwell together in unity?

It is like the oil of myrrh upon the head, which runneth down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, which runneth down to the fringe of his raiment.

It is like the dew of Aermom, which cometh down upon the mountains of Sion.

For there the Lord commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

Bishop: Glory to Thee, O Holy Trinity our God, unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The icons of the four Evangelists are placed at each corner of the holy table and are sealed in place with hot wax. The Evangelists icons are placed as follows:

THE VESTING OF THE HOLY TABLE

While the choir chants Psalm 131, the first altar covering is brought to the bishop, who sprinkles it, within and without, with holy water. It is then placed upon the altar.

PSALM 131

Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness.

How he made an oath unto the Lord, and vowed unto the God of Jacob:

I shall not go into the dwelling of my house, I shall not ascend upon the bed of my couch,
I shall not give sleep to mine eyes, nor slumber to mine eyelids, nor rest to my temples,
Until I find a place for the Lord, a habitation for the God of Jacob.
Lo, we have heard of it in Ephratha, we have found it in the plains of the wood.
Let us go forth into His tabernacles, let us worship at the place where His feet have stood.
Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness.
Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.
For the sake of David Thy servant, turn not Thy face away from Thine anointed one.
The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, and He will not annul it: Of the fruit of thy loins will I set upon thy throne.
If thy sons keep My covenant and these testimonies which I will teach them,
Their sons also shall sit for ever on thy throne.
For the Lord hath elected Sion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself.
This is My rest for ever and ever; here will I dwell, for I have chosen her.
Blessing, I will bless her pursuit; her beggars will I satisfy with bread.
Her priests will I clothe with salvation, and her saints with rejoicing shall rejoice.
There will I make to spring forth a horn for David, I have prepared a lamp for My Christ.
His enemies will I clothe with shame, but upon Him shall My sanctification flourish.

The second covering is brought to the bishop, as he says:

Bishop: Glory to our God unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

While the choir chants Psalm 92, the second altar covering is sprinkled, within and without, with holy water, and then placed upon the holy table. The bishop then places the gospel book, tabernacle, candlesticks, and blessing cross upon the holy table. These are then sprinkled with the holy water.

PSALM 92

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.
For He established the world which shall not be shaken.
Thy throne is prepared of old; Thou art from everlasting.
The rivers have lifted up, O Lord, the rivers have lifted up their voices.
The rivers will lift up their waves, at the voices of many waters.
Wonderful are the surgings of the sea, wonderful on high is the Lord.
Thy testimonies are made very sure. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Bishop: Glory to Thee, O Holy Trinity, our God, unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

While the chanter intones Psalm 25 (similar to how the epistle is read), the bishop wears his miter and censes the holy table, the proskomedi table, and the entire church while the deacons carrying trikiri and dikiri walk in front of him.

PSALM 25

Judge me, O Lord, for in mine innocence have I walked; and hoping in the Lord I shall not grow weak.
Prove me, O Lord, and try me; prove with fire my reins and my heart.
For Thy mercy is before mine eyes, and I have been well-pleasing in Thy truth.
I have not set with the council of vanity, nor shall I go in with them that transgress the law.
I have hated the congregation of evil-doers, and with the ungodly will I not sit.
I will wash my hands in innocence, and I will compass Thine altar, O Lord, that I may hear the voice of Thy praise and tell of all Thy wondrous works.
O Lord, I have loved the beauty of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth.
Destroy not my soul with the ungodly, nor my life with men of blood, in whose hands are iniquities; their right hand is full of bribes.

But as for me, in mine innocence have I walked; redeem me, O Lord, and have mercy on me.
My foot hath stood in uprightness; in the congregations will I bless Thee, O Lord.

THE ANOINTING OF THE CHURCH INTERIOR

The bishop, upon completing the censing, takes a long stick with a sponge on its end. Accompanied by the deacons, he pours Chrism on the sponge and anoints with the Sign of the Cross (or XR, Chi-Rho, the first two letters of the name of Christ) the wall above the sanctuary (high place), then above the church doors, then the south side, followed by the north side, and lastly on every pillar within the church. The chanter continues with Psalm 26 above.

Afterward, the bishop returns to the altar.

The bishop lights the new lamp on the altar, saying:

Bishop: Glory to the Holy, Almighty and Life-giving Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

While in the sanctuary, the deacon says the following little litany:

LITTLE LITANY

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

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

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, the 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.

Bishop: 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.

The bishop takes off his miter and says the following prayer.

Bishop: O Lord of heaven and earth, who founded Thy holy Church with ineffable wisdom and established the priesthood on earth according to the model of the ministrations of the angels in heaven: We beseech Thee, O munificent Lord, receive us who pray unto Thee; not that we are worthy to ask such great things of Thee, but that the overabundance of Thy goodness may become apparent; for Thou hast not ceased doing good in many ways to the race of man.

As the pinnacle of Thy benevolence, Thou hast granted us the coming of Thine only-begotten Son in the flesh. Made manifest on earth, He shined the light of salvation on those who sat in darkness.

He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, and became the propitiation for the whole world.

He made us partakers of His resurrection.

He ascended into heaven, and, as He promised, he clothed His Disciples and Apostles with power from on high, which is the Holy Spirit, Who is worshipped and almighty, and Who proceedeth from Thee, God the Father. Through the Holy Spirit, they became mighty in word and deed, delivered to us the baptism of adoption, built churches, established holy altars, and instituted canons and laws.

And we sinners, now in possession of this tradition, come before Thee, the eternal God, and implore Thee, O compassionate Lord:

As this sanctuary was erected for the purpose of singing hymns of praise to Thee, fill it with Thy divine glory, and make the holy altar set up herein to be a Holy of Holies, so that when we stand before it, as before the dread throne of Thy kingdom, we may serve Thee without condemnation, and may send up petitions for ourselves and for all Thy people, and offer the bloodless sacrifice to Thy goodness, for the forgiveness of sins both voluntary and involuntary, for the governing of our life, to lead a good life, and to fulfill all righteousness.

For blessed is Thine all-holy and majestic name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Bishop: We thank Thee, O Lord God of Hosts, for that Thou hast graciously vouchsafed to continue also even unto us sinners and Thine unworthy servants that grace which Thou hast poured out upon Thy Holy Apostles and upon our Holy Fathers because of Thy great love toward mankind.

Wherefore, we pray Thee, O all-merciful Lord: Fill this Altar with glory and holiness and grace, that the bloodless sacrifices which shall be offered unto Thee upon it may be transformed into the immaculate Body and precious Blood of Thine only begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, unto the salvation of all Thy people, and of our unworthiness,

For Thou art 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 Service of Church Consecration is now complete. It took the place of the antiphons, the Little Entrance, the apolytikia and kontakion in the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, which now continues as usual.

THE HIERARCHAL DIVINE LITURGY

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: 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...

Deacon: ...and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The choir begins chanting the Trisagion Hymn (Thrice Holy Hymn) in alternation with the clergy. In between the Trisagion Hymn the reading of the Epistle, we chant the phimi (in Tone Two) in honor of His Eminence, Metropolitan Saba in the following order: The deacon intones the phimi from the beautiful gate. The clergy then chant the phimi from the sanctuary. The choir then chants the phimi from where it stands.

PHIMI OF METROPOLITAN SABA

SABA, the most devout, the most reverend, chosen by God as Archbishop of New York and the Metropolitan of all North America, our Father and Chief Shepherd, may God grant him many years!

THE EPISTLE

(For the Consecration) Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore. The Lord is King; He is clothed with majesty.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (3:1-4)

Holy Brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.

He was faithful to Him Who appointed Him, just as Moses also was faithful in God's house.

Yet Jesus has been counted worthy of much more glory than Moses as the Builder of a house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the Builder of all things is God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Consecration) The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John (10:22-28)

At that time, it was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So, the Jews gathered round Him and said to Him, "How long will

You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness to Me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life.”

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual with the following variables.

THE ANTI-CHERUBIC HYMN IN TONE FIVE Holy Saturday

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and in fear and trembling stand, pondering nothing earthly minded. For the King of kings and Lord of lords cometh forth to be slain and given as food to the faithful. Before Him go the ranks of angels, with all the principalities and powers:

After the Great Entrance, the choir concludes the hymn:

The cherubim many-eyed and the six-winged seraphim, covering their faces and chanting their hymn: Alleluia.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THE CONSECRATION IN TONE EIGHT

O Lord, I have loved the beauty of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. Alleluia.

THE DISMISSAL

Bishop: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother;
by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross;
by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven, especially the Archangel Michael, the patron and protector of this holy community;
at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;
of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles;
of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated;
of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers;
of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints:
have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Instead of “Ton Dhespotin,” at the conclusion of a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, the choir sings his polychronion.

POLYCHRONION OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA

The Lord God grant many years, the most reverend Chief and Master and elect of God: Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America: Kyrios, Kyrios, SABA. O Lord, preserve him for many years, for many years, for many years.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Choir: Amen.