The Reader Service for Great Compline with The Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

THE ORDER FOR READER GREAT COMPLINE
WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH

The First Thursday of Great Lent

*THE SERVICE TAKES PLACE IN FRONT OF OUR ICON CORNERS*

EVERYONE: O, God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me! (3x)

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

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

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name’s sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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

EVERYONE: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)

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

Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 70

Make haste, o God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD.

Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt.

3Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha.

4Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.

But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.

Ode 1

A Helper and a Protector has become salvation to me.

This is my God, Whom I will glorify.

God of my fathers
I will exalt Him for in glory was He glorified.
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of all, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Thy compassion grant me tears of compunction.
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I fall prostrate before Thee, O Jesus. I have sinned against Thee, be merciful to me. Take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Thy compassion grant me tears of compunction.
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Enter not into judgment with me, by recording my deeds, demanding an account of my words, and examining my motives and desires. But in Thy compassion disregard my terrible past and save me, O God All-Powerful.
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

It is time for repentance. I draw near to Thee, my Creator. Take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Thy compassion grant me tears of compunction.

I have squandered in profligacy the substance of my soul, and I am barren of virtues and piety; but famished I cry: O Father of mercies, forestall and have compassion on me. (Luke 15:13, 17)
Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: By submitting to Christ's divine laws Thou didst draw near to Him, having left the unbridled craving for pleasure, and with all discretion thou didst achieve every virtue as one.
Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: Superessential Trinity, adored in Unity, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Thy compassion grant me tears of compunction.
Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Mother of God, hope and intercessor of those who sing of thee, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and as thou art our pure Lady, accept me who repent.

Ode 2
Attend O heaven and I will speak,
I will sing of Christ, Who from the Virgin took flesh to dwell with us.
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

"I have killed a man to the wounding of myself," said Lamech, "and a young man to my own hurt," he cried out wailing. But you, my soul, do not tremble, while polluting the flesh and defiling the mind. (Genesis 4:23)
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

You would have contrived to build a tower, my soul, and erect a stronghold for your lusts, had not the Creator confounded your plans and brought your schemes crashing to earth. (Genesis 11:3-4)  
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O how I have emulated that old murderer Lamech! By my pleasure-loving cravings I have killed my soul as the man, my mind as the young man, and my body as my brother, like Cain the murderer. (Genesis 4:23)  
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The Lord rained fire from the Lord of old, and burnt up the wanton wickedness of Sodom. But you, my soul, have kindled the fire of hell in which you are about to be bitterly burnt. (Genesis 19:24)  
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I am struck and wounded! See the arrows of the enemy with which my soul and body are pierced all over! See the wounds, the sores and the mutilations that cry out and betray the blows of my self-chosen passions!  
Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Thou didst stretch out thy hands to the merciful God, O Mary, when sunk in the lowest vices. And He Who by every means was seeking thy conversion, lovingly stretched out a helping hand as to Peter.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: Unoriginate, uncreated Trinity, indivisible Unity, accept me who repent, save me who have sinned. I am Thy creation, despise me not, but spare me and deliver me from the fire of condemnation.  
Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Spotless Lady, Mother of God, hope of those who run to thee, and haven of those in distress,

Ode 3
Establish Thy Church, O Christ, on the unshakeable rock of Thy commandments.  
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

You, my soul, have become like Hagar the Egyptian of old. You have become enslaved by your own choice and have a new Ishmael - stubborn self-will. (Genesis 16:15)  
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

You know, my soul, of the Ladder shown to Jacob reaching from earth to Heaven. Why have you not clung to the sure step of piety? (Genesis 28:12)  
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Imitate that Priest of God and solitary King who was an image of the life of Christ in the world among men. (cf. Melchizedek: Hebrews 7:1-4; Genesis 14:18)  
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.
Be converted and groan, wretched soul, before the pageant of life comes to an end, before the Lord shuts the door of the bridal hall.

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Do not be a pillar of salt, my soul, by turning back; but let the example of the Sodomites frighten you, and take refuge up in Zoar. (Genesis 19:26)

Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

Reject not the prayer of those who praise Thee, O Lord; but have compassion on us, O Lover of men, and to those who ask with faith grant forgiveness.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: Simple, uncreated Unity, unoriginate Nature praised in a Trinity of Persons, save us who with faith worship Thy power.

Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: O Mother of God, unwedded thou gavest birth in time to the timeless Son of the Father. And - O strange wonder! - thou remainest a Virgin while suckling Him.

Ode 4
The prophet heard of Thy coming, O Lord, and was afraid that Thee were to be born of a virgin and appear to men, and he said "I have heard the report of Thee and am afraid"; Glory to Thy power, O Lord. Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Brief is my lifetime and full of pain and wickedness, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of Thee. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me. (Genesis 47:9)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The opulent and righteous man, arrayed in royal dignity, crown and purple, abounding in wealth and cattle, was suddenly shorn of his riches, glory and kingdom and became a beggar.

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

If he who was righteous and blameless beyond all did not escape the snares and nets of the deceiver, what will you do, my soul, who are sin-loving and wretched, if something unexpected happens to you?

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.
Boastful I am, and hard-hearted, all in vain and for nothing. Condemn me not with the Pharisee, but rather grant me the humility of the Publican, O only merciful and just Judge, and number me with him. (Luke 18:9-14)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have sinned, I know, O merciful Lord, and outraged the vessel of my flesh, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of Thee. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I am become my own idol, and have injured my soul with passions, O merciful Lord, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of Thee. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have not listened to Thy voice, I have disobeyed Thy Scripture, O Lawgiver, but accept me in penitence and recall me to awareness of Thee. May I never be the possession or food of the enemy. O Savior, have compassion on me.

Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Though dragged down to the depth of great offences, thou wast not held there. But with better thought thou didst return by action to consummate virtue beyond all expectation, to the amazement of angel kind, O Mary.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: I confess Thee to be undivided in essence, unconfused in persons, One Triune Divinity, co-enthroned and co-reigning. I sing Thee the great song thrice sung on high.

Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Thou givest birth and livest a virgin life, and in both remainest a virgin by nature. He Who is born of thee renews the laws of nature, and a womb gives birth without travail. Where God wills, the order of nature is overruled; for He does whatever He wishes.

Ode 5
Out of the night watching early for Thee,
enlighten me I pray, O Lover of man,
and guide me in Thy commandments,
and teach me, O Saviour, to do Thy will.
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Imitate, my soul, the woman bent earthward; come and fall down at the feet of Jesus, that He may straighten you to walk upright in the footsteps of the Lord. (Luke 13:11)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Though Thou art a deep well, O Lord, pour on me streams from Thy immaculate wounds, that like the Samaritan woman I may drink and thirst no more; for from Thee gush rivers of life. (John 4:13-15)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.
May my tears be for me a Siloam, O Sovereign Lord, that I may wash the eyes of my soul and mentally see Thee Who art that light which was before creation. (John 9:7; Genesis 1:2-19)

Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Thou, all-blessed one, didst yearn with matchless love and longing to worship the Tree of Life, and thy desire was granted; make us also worthy to attain to the glory on high.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: Thee, O Trinity, we glorify, the one God: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, Father, Son and Spirit, simple Being, Unity ever adored.

Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: From thee, O pure maiden Mother and Virgin, God Who created the worlds and ages was clad in my clay and united to Himself human nature.

Ode 6
With my whole heart, I cried unto the compassionate God, and He heard me; and He lifted up my soul from the depths of hell and from corruption. Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I am the coin with the royal image which was lost of old, O Savior. But light the lamp, Thy Forerunner, O Word; seek and find Thy image. (Luke 15:8)

Rise and make war against the passions of the flesh, as Joshua did against Amalek, and ever conquer the Gibeonites - illusive thoughts. (Exodus 17:8; Joshua 8:21)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

To St. Mary of Egypt: To extinguish the flame of the passions, O Mary, thou didst ever shed rivers of tears and fire thy soul with divine love. Grant also to me, thy servant, the grace of tears.

Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Thou didst acquire heavenly dispassion by thy sublime life on earth, O mother. Therefore pray that those who sing of thee may be delivered from the grip of passions.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: I am the Trinity, simple and undivided, divided Personally, and I am the Unity, united in nature, says the Father, the Son, and the Divine Spirit.

Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Thy womb bore God for us Who took our form. Implore Him as the Creator of all, O Mother of God, that through thy intercessions we may be justified.
Kontakion (Tone 6)
My soul, my soul, Arise!
Why are Thee sleeping?
The end is drawing near,
and Thee will be confounded,
awake then and be watchful
that Christ our God may spare Thee,
Who is everywhere, and fills all things.

Ode 7
We have sinned, transgressed, done wrong before Thee.
We have not watched or done as Thee have commanded us,
but do not give us up utterly, O God of our fathers.
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

My days have vanished like a dream on waking. Therefore weep on my bed like Hezekiah that years may be added to my life. But what Isaiah will come to you, my soul, except the God of all? (IV Kings 20:3; Isaiah 38:2)
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I fall, down before Thee and bring Thee as tears my words. I have sinned like the harlot, and transgressed as no other on earth. But have compassion, O Lord, on Thy work, and recall me.
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have buried Thy image and broken Thy commandment. All my beauty is darkened and my lamp is extinguished by my passions, O Savior. But have compassion and restore to me, as David sings, joy. (Psalm 50:14)
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Return, repent, uncover what is hidden. Say to God Who knows everything: Thou knowest my secrets, O only Savior; but have mercy on me, as David sings, according to Thy mercy.
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

To St. Mary of Egypt: By crying to the immaculate Mother of God, thou didst repel the rage of passions which once violently harassed thee, and didst put to shame the enemy tempter. But now grant me, thy servant, also help out of trouble.

Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: He Whom thou lovest, He Whom thou desires, He on Whose track thou camest, mother, found thee and granted thee repentance, for He is God Who alone is compassionate. Implore Him unceasingly to deliver us from passions and adversities.
Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: 0 Trinity simple and undivided, of one essence and, one nature, Lights and Light, three Holies and one Holy, God the Trinity is hymned. But sing, my soul, and glorify the Life and Lives, the God of all.
Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: We sing of thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, O Mother of God, for thou gavest birth to one of the inseparable Trinity, the one Son and God, and to us on earth thou hast opened the heavenly realms.

Ode 8
Him Whom the hosts of heaven glorify, Whom the Cherubim and Seraphim dread, let every breath and creature praise, bless and magnify throughout all ages. Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us.

The alabaster jar of my tears, O Savior, I pour out on Thy head as the perfume, and like the harlot I cry to Thee, seeking Thy mercy. I offer prayer and ask to receive forgiveness. (Matthew 26:7; Luke 7:38)
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Though no one has sinned against Thee as I, yet accept even me, O compassionate Savior, repenting with fear and crying with love: Against Thee only have I sinned. I have done wrong, have mercy on me.
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Spare, O Savior, Thy own creation, and seek as Shepherd Thy lost sheep; snatch the stray from the wolf, and make me a pet lamb in Thy sheep pasture. (Psalm 118:176; John 10:11-16)
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

When Thou sittest as Judge and in Thy compassion showest Thy dread glory, O Christ, O what fear there will be then, when the furnace is burning and all shrink from Thy inexorable Tribunal! (Matthew 25:31-46)
Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

To St. Mary of Egypt: The Mother of the unwaning Light enlightened thee, and freed thee from the darkness of the passions. So now thou art admitted to the grace of the Spirit, enlighten, O Mary, those who faithfully praise Thee.
Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Beholding in thee a new wonder, O mother, divine Zosimas was truly amazed. For he saw an angel in a body and, filled with utter astonishment, he praises Christ for ever.
Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: Eternal Father, co-eternal Son, gracious Comforter, Spirit of Truth; Father of the Divine Word, Word of the Eternal father, living and creative Spirit, Trinity Unity, have mercy on us.
Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: As from scarlet silk, O spotless Virgin, within thy womb the spiritual purple was woven, the flesh of Emmanuel. Therefore we honor thee as in truth Mother of God.

Ode 9
Ineffable is the child bearing of a seedless conception, a mother remaining pure. For the birth of God renews nature, so in all ages we magnify Thee as mother and bride of God.
Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us.
Have compassion and save me, have mercy on me, O Son of David, Who didst heal with a word the demoniac. And let Thy voice of tender compassion speak to me as to the robber, "Truly I tell you, you will be with Me in Paradise when I rise in My glory." (Luke 9:38-42; 23:43)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

A robber accused Thee, and a robber confessed Thee to be God, for both were hanging on a cross with Thee. But open even to me, O most compassionate Savior, the door of Thy glorious Kingdom as to Thy faithful robber who acknowledged Thee to be God. (Luke 23:32-42)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Creation was in anguish; seeing Thee crucified; mountains and rocks were split with fear, the earth quaked, hell was emptied, and the light grew dark in the daytime; beholding Thee, Jesus, nailed to the Cross in Thy flesh. (Matthew 27:51-53; Luke 23:44-45)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Do not require of me fruits worthy of repentance, for my strength is spent in me. Grant me ever a contrite heart and spiritual poverty, that I may offer these gifts to Thee as an acceptable sacrifice, O only Savior. (Matthew 3:8; 5:3; Psalm 50:17)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O my Judge and my Light, Who alone knowest me and art coming again with Thine Angels to judge the whole world, regard me then with Thy merciful Eye and spare me, O Jesus. And have compassion on me who have sinned more than all mankind. (Matthew 25:31-32)

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Thou didst astonish all by thy strange life, both the Orders of Angels and the councils of men, by living immaterially and surpassing nature. Then treading firmly the waves like an immaterial being, O Mary, thou didst cross the Jordan an.

Refrain: Holy mother Mary, pray for us.

To St. Mary of Egypt: Intercede with the Creator on behalf of those who praise thee, holy mother, that we may be delivered from the sufferings and afflictions which beset us on all sides, that being delivered from our temptations, we may unceasingly magnify the Lord Who glorified thee.

Refrain: Holy father Andrew, pray for us.

To St. Andrew of Crete: Venerable Andrew, thrice-blessed father, shepherd of Crete, cease not to pray to God for those who sing of thee, that He may deliver from anger, oppression, corruption, and our countless sins, all of us who faithfully honor thy me memory.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

To The Trinity: Let us glorify the Father, exalt the Son, and faithfully worship the Divine Spirit, inseparable Trinity, Unity in essence, as the Light and Lights, the Life and Lives, giving life and light to the ends of the earth.
Refrain: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Protect thy city, spotless Mother of God, for in thee it faithfully reigns, and in thee is made strong, and through thee it conquers and routs every trial and temptation, and spoils its foes and rules its subjects.

Ineffable is the child bearing of a seedless conception, a mother remaining pure. For the birth of God renews nature, so in all ages we magnify Thee as mother and bride of God. Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us.

Psalm 4

READER:
Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him. In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord. Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord. You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long? Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave? I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, 0 God. (3)
READER:  God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit Thyselves, for God is with us.

Choir:  God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit Thyselves, for God is with us.

READER:  Hear this, all Thee ends of the earth!

Choir:  For God is with us!  (This refrain is sung after each verse.)

READER:  Submit Themselves, Thee mighty ones!

Even if Thy strength returns, Thee shall be overthrown once more.
Take counsel together, if Thee wish, but it will come to nothing.
Make Thy plans, if Thee wish, but it will come to nothing.
We do not fear Thy threats, nor are we troubled.
For the Lord our God is holy, and Him we will fear.
If I trust in Him, He will be my sanctification.

I will wait for Him, He will save me.
Behold, I and the children whom God has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of Hosts.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
To those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a light is risen.
For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given.
And the government shall be upon His shoulder.
And of His peace there shall be no end.
And His Name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel.
Wonderful, Counsellor.
Mighty God, Eternal Ruler, Prince of Peace.
The Father of the World to Come.

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

READER:  God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit Thyselves, for God is with us!

Choir:  God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit Thyselves, for God is with us!

Reader:   The day being past, I give thanks to Thee, O Lord; I pray, that this evening and in the coming night I may be without sin; Grant this to me, O Savior, and save me.

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

The day being past, I glorify Thee, O Master; I pray that this the evening, and in the coming night I may be without temptation; Grant this to me, O Savior, and save me.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The day being past, I hymn Thee, O Holy One; I pray that this evening, and in the coming night I may be without peril; Grant this to me, O Savior, and save me.
The bodiless nature of the Cherubim with unceasing hymns glorify Thee. The six-winged Seraphim, with never-ceasing voices greatly magnify Thee. And all the hosts of the Angels praise Thee with thrice-holy hymns. For before all ages Thou art the existing Father, together with Thy Son, who art also from everlasting, and The Spirit of life, Thou dost manifest the Undivided Trinity.

O Most holy Virgin Theotokos, and ye eyewitness Apostles and servants of the Word, along with all the choirs of Prophets and Martyrs, who have attained unto eternal life: Pray fervently for us all, for we are in great distress; that, being delivered from the snares of the evil one, we may proclaim the angelic hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, Thrice-holy Lord, have mercy and save us. Amen.

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

(The following invocations are sung antiphonally between READER and choir)

READER: All-holy lady Theotokos, pray for us sinners!

Choir: All-holy lady Theotokos, pray for us sinners!

READER: All Thee heavenly hosts of holy angels and archangels, pray for us sinners!

Choir: All Thee heavenly hosts of holy angels and archangels, pray for us sinners!

READER: O holy John, prophet, forerunner and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, pray for us sinners!

Choir: O holy John, prophet, forerunner and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, pray for us sinners!

READER: O holy and glorious apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all saints, pray for us sinners.

Choir: O holy and glorious apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all saints, pray for us sinners.

READER: All Thee righteous and god-bearing fathers, pastors and teachers of the universal Church, pray for us sinners!

Choir: All Thee righteous and god-bearing fathers, pastors and teachers of the universal Church, pray for us sinners!
READER:  O holy [name of church], pray for us sinners!

Choir:    O holy [name of church], pray for us sinners!

READER:  O invincible, unconquerable and divine power of the honorable and life-giving cross, forsake not us sinners!

Choir:    O invincible, unconquerable and divine power of the honorable and life-giving cross, forsake not us sinners!

READER:  O God, cleanse us sinners!

Choir:    O God, cleanse us sinners!

READER:  O God, cleanse us sinners!

Choir:    O God, cleanse us sinners!

READER:  O God, cleanse us sinners and have mercy on us.

Choir:    O God, cleanse us sinners and have mercy on us.

(Continues on Next Page)
Monday & Wednesday evenings

CHOIR:  
Tone 2  
O Christ my God, illumine my eyes that I do not sleep unto death; lest my enemies say that they have prevailed against me.

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

CHOIR:  
Tone 2  
O God, be the defender of my soul, for I walk through a multitude of snares. Deliver me from them and save me, O Good One, for You love mankind.

READER:  
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR:  
Tone 2  
O Virgin Birth-giver of God, since we have no boldness because of our many iniquities, make a fervent supplication on our behalf to the Lord who was
born of you. Truly, the prayers of a mother avail greatly unto the compassion of the Master. All-pure One, do not despise the petitions us sinners; for He who suffered for us is gracious and mighty in bringing us to salvation.

Tuesday & Thursday evenings

CHOIR: Tone 8
O Lord my Creator, You know the temptations that come upon me from my invisible enemies who continually assail me, and You know how frail I am in the flesh. Therefore, I commit my spirit into Your hands. Cover me with the protection of Your goodness, that I may not enter into the sleep of death. Enlighten the eyes of my spiritual understanding, that I may delight in Your divine words. In a time that is acceptable to You, lead me to glorify You in praise as the only Good One who loves mankind.

READER:
Look upon me, O Lord my God, and attend to my cry.

CHOIR: Tone 8
O Lord, how awesome is Your Judgment, when the angels will assemble and all people will be brought before You. Then the books will be opened and all deeds will be revealed and judged; all thoughts and secrets will be exposed. What judgment shall come upon me, a sinner born into sin? Who will save me from the fire of eternal condemnation? Who will enlighten my darkness? Who will show mercy on me, if not You – O Lord – because of Your love for mankind?

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

CHOIR: Tone 8
Grant me tears of repentance, O God, as those of the sinful woman who came to You and washed your feet with her tears. Grant that I may wash Your feet which delivered me from the path of straying away. Grant that my life may be purified through repentance and become a sweet-smelling incense before You. So I may also hear Your voice saying: “Your faith has saved you, go in peace.”

READER:
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
CHOIR:  

Tone 8  
O Theotokos, Birth-giver of God, I am not ashamed and have hope that I shall be saved, for I have you as an intercessor before the Savior. Therefore, O All-Pure One, I will not be afraid. I will pursue my enemies and put them to flight with your protection and powerful aid. I fervently cry to you and implore your intercessions saying: “O Lady, save my through your prayers, and raise me up from the gloomy slumber of sin to glorify you in song, by the might of the Son of God who – through you – was made flesh.”

READER:  

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)  

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you!  

In The Name of The Lord, give the blessing.

READER: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

(Continues on Next Page)
Prayer of Saint Basil the Great

O God – Father Almighty -- You deliver us from all the arrows that fly during the day, also deliver us from all evil things that dwell in the darkness. Accept our evening prayer and sacrifice as we lift up our hands to You. Grant that we may pass through the course of this night without sin, that we not be tempted by evil thoughts; and deliver us from every temptation and despair that comes to us from the Evil One. Grant to our souls a spirit of repentance and to our minds the remembrance of Your just Day of Judgment. Nail our flesh to the awe of Your glory, and cleanse our bodies. In the silence of sleep, may we be enlightened by the vision of Your judgments. Remove from us every impure imagination and harmful desire of the flesh. Raise us up in the morning fortified in the faith, and advancing in the way of Your commandments; through the mercy and goodness of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, O Father, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God, our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the innermost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.
The Prayer of Manasseh

READER: O Lord Almighty, thou God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and of their righteous seed; who hast made heaven and earth with all the array thereof; who hast bound the sea by the word of thy command; who hast shut up the deep and sealed it by thy fearful and glorious name; whom all things fear, yea and before whose power they tremble; for the majesty of thy glory cannot be borne and the anger of thy threatening toward sinners is intolerable and yet thy merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable; for thou art the Lord most high, of great compassion, long-suffering, abundant in mercy, and repentest of the evils against me. Thou, O Lord, according to thy great goodness, hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against thee; and of thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners, that they may be saved. Thou, therefore, O Lord of hosts, hast not appointed repentance to the just, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, who have not sinned against thee; but thou hast appointed repentance unto me, who am a sinner; for my sins are more in number than the sands of the sea. My transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied, my transgressions are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold and look unto the height of heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities. I am bowed down with many iron bands, so that I cannot lift up my head by reason of my sins, neither have I any respite; for I have provoked thy wrath and done that which is evil before thee; I did not thy will, neither kept I thy commandments; I have set up abominations and multiplied detestable things.

Now, therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, beseeching thee for grace. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities; but I humbly beseech thee, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities. Be not angry with me for ever, by reserving my evils for me; neither condemn me to the lower parts of the earth; for thou, O Lord, art the God of them that repent; and in me wilt thou show all thy goodness; for thou wilt save me that am unworthy, according to thy great mercy. And I will praise thee henceforth all the days of my life; for all the powers of heaven hymn thee, and thine is the glory unto the ages of ages. Amen.

(Continue on Next Page)
CHOIR:

Tone 6
Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. For we sinners, void of all defense, offer to You this supplication as to our Master: "Have mercy on us."

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

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have put our trust in You. Do not be exceedingly angry with us, neither call to remembrance our iniquities; but look upon us now in Your loving-kindness, and deliver us from our enemies. For You are our God and we are Your people; we are all the work of Your hands and we call upon Your name.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH  ROCHESTER, NEW YORK  GREAT LENT 2004

READER:

O Sovereign Master: God, the Father Almighty; Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. One Godhead, one Power: have mercy on me, a sinner; and by means which are known to You, save me — Your unworthy servant. For You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Doxology
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all people! We hymn You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory. O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father -- You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world: receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us. For You only are holy, You only are the Lord -- Jesus Christ -- to the glory of God the Father. Amen! Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever. Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light shall we see light. O continue Your mercy unto them that know You.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
CHOIR:

Praise God in His holiness; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Refrain: O Lord of Hosts, be with us; for beside You we have no other helper in adversity. Have mercy on us, O Lord of Hosts.

Praise Him in His noble acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet; praise Him upon the lute and harp.

Praise Him with cymbals and dances; praise Him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise Him upon well-tuned cymbals; praise Him with loud cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise God in His holiness; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

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

Lord, if we did not have Your saints as our intercessors ... and Your gracious loving-kindness which bestows mercy on us ... how could we presume to sing to You, O Savior? How could we sing to You. Whom the Angels glorify with unceasing songs of praise? Spare our souls, O Lord, who knows our hearts.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Birth-giver of God, great is the multitude of my transgression. O Pure One, I flee to you seeking salvation. Visit my feeble soul and pray to your Son and our God, that He will grant me the remission of the terrible deeds I have done — O Only-blessed One.

All-holy Birth-giver of God, do not forsake me. Do not give me over to the protection of sinners, but defend me and have mercy on me.

O Mother of God, I put my whole trust in you. Keep me under your protection.

READER: Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who loveth the righteous and hast mercy on sinners; Who callest all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil, and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guarded and guided by their array, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory: For blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify you. In the Name of the Lord, give the blessing.

**READER:** Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

**READER:** Amen.

**READER:**

O Lord and Master of my life: take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

(Prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant.

(Prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Prostration)

O, God cleanse me a sinner! (12x)

O Lord and Master of my life: take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Prostration)
O Virgin, pure, spotless, incorrupt, undefiled, and all-pure; O Bride of God and Sovereign Lady, who united the Word of God with humanity through your most glorious birth-giving and has set free the sinful nature of our race that it might be yoked to that which is heavenly. You are the sole hope of the hopeless, the helper of those who are assailed, a speedy defender of those who flee to you and the refuge of all Christians. Do not despise me, a sinner polluted by shameful thoughts, words, and deeds. Look upon me as one who has, through laziness of soul and mind, become a slave of sin and the worldly cares of life. But, since you are the Mother of the God who loves mankind, mercifully have compassion on me -- a sinner and a prodigal. Accept my prayer offered from impure lips. And exercising your maternal boldness, intercede with your Son and our God -- our Master and Lord -- that He will open to me the compassionate loving-kindness of His goodness and disregard my sinfulness while turning me to repentance. Pray that He will show me to be a well-skilled doer of His commandments. And be ever present with me, for you are a fervent intercessor and helper who, in this present life, repels the assaults of adversaries while leading me to salvation and, at the hour of death, cares diligently for my soul. May I be delivered from eternal judgement and be manifested as an heir of the glorious kingdom of your Son and our God. All of which I shall obtain, O Lady and Theotokos, by your help; through the mercy and love toward mankind of your only-begotten Son -- our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ -- to whom is due all glory, honor and worship, together with His Father from everlasting, and His all-holy, good, and life-giving Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer before the icon of our Lord
And grant to me, O Master, as I prepare for sleep, repose both of body and soul. Preserve me from the gloomy slumber of sin, and from every dark and impure temptation. Calm the impulses of carnal desires and quench the fiery darts of the Evil One craftily directed against me. Ease the rebellions of my flesh. Soothe my earthly and material anxieties. And grant to me, O Lord, a watchful mind, a pure reasoning, a sober heart and sleep free from every vision of evil. Raise me up again in the morning, strengthened in Your precepts and holding steadfastly within me the memory of Your commandments. Grant that through this night I may sing praises to You, and that I may hymn, bless, and glorify Your all-holy and majestic name -- Lord Jesus Christ -- together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

A final Prayer before the icon of the Theotokos:
O exceedingly glorious, ever-virgin Mother of Christ our God, bear our petitions unto Your Son and our God, and implore Him to save our souls.

The Father is my hope! The Son is my refuge! The Holy Spirit is my protector! O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

READER: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond than the Seraphim, without defilement, Thee gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we magnify Thee.
**CHOIR:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Lord Bless!

**READER:** Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the Power of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross, through the protection of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, through the prayers of Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, through the prayers of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, through the Prayers of all the North American Saints, through the prayers of ________________ the patron of this Holy Temple, through the prayers of ____________ whom we celebrate today, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*(The faithful now come up and venerate the Precious Cross and Icons in our Icon Corner.)*

**READER:** Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**CHOIR:** Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.