

THE SERVICES
OF THE
HOURS
-
THE
GREAT
BOOK
OF THE
HOURS
-
GREAT
HOROLOGION

Ottawa, Ontario
2002-2007-
2017-2025
USD/AOC, cd

THE OBEDNITSA (PRO-LITURGY) SERVICE

(served by a deacon alone)

A priest does not lead this service.

When the deacon comes to the Temple, he sets up the Gospel Book and a hand-Cross on the central analoy/tetrapod. The Royal Doors and the Curtain remain closed.

The deacon vests as usual (having been given the blessing to do so through the blessing to lead this service), and he begins the service at the appropriate time with a full censuring of the Temple. He begins by censuring the analoy/tetrapod on four sides, then the iconostas, the people, the rest of the Temple, and he ends the censuring at the analoy in the centre of the Temple.

Usually, the serving of the Obednitsa is preceded by the reading of the Third and Sixth Hours. In this case, the censuring would take place during the Sixth Hour.

If the Hours are not read, then the Obednitsa must begin with the Usual Beginning.

Standing in his place in front of the Gospel and Cross, he begins :

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

Response : Amen.

If the Hours have preceded the Obednitsa, then the following is omitted, and we begin with the Great Litany.

Reader : Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

* O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and fulfilling all things ; Treasury of good things, and Provider of Life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

* [We do not read "Heavenly King" in paschaltide. We say "Christ is risen.." (three times). From Ascension to Pentecost, we read the tropar of Ascension.]

Reader : Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

(three times) (three metanias)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins.* O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

*Be propitious to

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

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

Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ; and bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

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

Response : Amen.

When the Obednitsa follows the reading of the Hours, then we begin here.

GREAT LITANY (of Peace)

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

Response : Lord, have mercy. *(and so, after each petition)*

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

For the peace of the whole world ; for the stability of the holy Churches of God ; and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Metropolitan n, for our father, (Arch)Bishop n, for the honourable priesthood, for the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy, and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the King/Queen, for all civil authorities of our country, and for the public service, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city (town, village, countryside, holy monastery), for every city, and countryside, and for the Faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For favourable weather ; for abundance of the fruits of the earth ; and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travellers by land, by water, and by air ; for the sick, and the suffering ; for captives, and the salvation of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

For our rescue from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos, and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life, unto Christ our God.

Response : To You, O Lord.

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

Response : Amen.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Readers : **TYPICAL PSALM 102**

Readers : Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His

recompense – the Lord, being propitious to all your lawless acts, healing all your diseases, redeeming your life from decay, crowning you with mercy and compassion, fulfilling your craving with good things. Your youth shall be renewed as an eagle's. It is the Lord, doing mercy and judgement towards all those being wronged. He made known His ways to Moses, His will to the sons of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and greatly merciful. He will not be angry unto the end, nor will He cherish wrath unto the age. Not in accordance with our lawless acts has He wrought with us, nor in accordance with our sins has He requited us ; for as high as is Heaven from the earth, so has the LORD made strong His mercy upon all those fearing Him. As far as east is from west, so far has He removed our lawless acts from us. Even as a father has compassion on his sons, so has the Lord had compassion on those fearing Him ; for He knows our fashioning ; He remembers that we are dirt. Man, his days are just like grass ; just as a flower of the field, so shall he flourish ; for breath has passed through him, and he shall not exist, and he shall recognise his place no longer. But the mercy of the Lord is from the age, and until the age, upon those fearing Him, and His righteousness upon the sons of sons, to those keeping His Covenant, and remembering His commandments, to do them. The Lord prepared His throne in Heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, all you His angels, powerful in strength, doing His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all you His powers, His ministers, doing His will. Bless the Lord, all you His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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

The Little Litany

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

Response : Lord have mercy. (*and so, after each petition*)

Deacon : Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep O God by Your Grace.

Deacon : Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos, and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Response : To Thee O Lord.

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

Response : Amen.

The Second Antiphon

Readers : Praise the Lord, O my soul. I shall praise the Lord in my life. I shall chant to my God as long as I exist. Do not put your trust in princes, and in sons of Men in whom there is no salvation. His spirit shall go out, and he shall turn back to his earth ; in that day, all his reasonings shall perish. Blessed is the one whose Helper is the God of Jacob ; his hope is on the Lord his God, on Him who made Heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is in them ; on Him, guarding truth unto the age, making judgement for those who have been wronged, giving nourishment to the hungry. The Lord sets loose those bound in fetters ; the Lord makes wise the blind ; the Lord sets upright those broken down ; the Lord loves the righteous ; the Lord watches over the resident foreigners. The orphan and the widow He will take up, but the way of sinners He will obliterate. The Lord will establish His Kingship unto the age, your God, O Sion, unto generation and generation.

ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON

Tone 2

Readers : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O Only-begotten Son, and Word of God, You are Immortal ; yet, for our salvation, You accepted to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos, and Ever-virgin Mary. Without change, You became Man, and were crucified, and trampled death by death. O Christ our God, who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, save us.

The Little Litany

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

Response : Lord have mercy.

Deacon : Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep O God by Thy grace.

Response : Lord have mercy.

Deacon : Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos, and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Response : To Thee O Lord.

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

Response : Amen.

The Third Antiphon BEATITUDES

The verses on the Beatitudes from the Octoechos, and/or Menaion, taken from Odes 3, and 6 of the matins canon, may be inserted in their proper places.

Refrain : In Your Kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom.

Readers : Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
(12 verses) **R :**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

R :

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

(10 verses)

R :

Blessed are those who hunger, and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

R :

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

(8 verses)

R :

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

R :

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
(6 verses)

R :

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

(4 verses)

R :

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad ; for great is your reward in Heaven.

R :

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

R :

On ordinary days we may follow the Prokeimenon, Epistle, Alleluia, and Gospel of the day at this time ; but if it be "Obednitsa" they follow later.

In Lent, however, we go to the middle of the temple, and sing with more force, and with a prostration after each repetition :

Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom.

Remember us, O Master, when You come in Your Kingdom.

The Little Entrance

The deacon takes Holy Gospel Book from the analoy/tetrapod and proceeds before the Royal Doors, and he exclaims :

Deacon : Wisdom. Let us attend.¹

Then the deacon returns the Holy Gospel to the analoy/tetrapod.

Response : O come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ ; O Son of God,
-who rose from the dead ; (Sundays)
-through the prayers of the Theotokos ; (Feast-days, and days of
the Theotokos)
-who are wonderful in Your saints ; (Weekdays)
save us who sing to You, "Alleluia".

TROPARS

Then the singers sing the proper Tropars for the Day.

-Tropar(s) of the day – from the Octoechos in the proper tone, and
from the Menaion of the day

-Tropar of the Temple

After the singing of the Tropars, the deacon exclaims :

Deacon : O Lord, save the God-fearing.

Response : O Lord, save the God-fearing.

Deacon : And hear us.

Reponse : And hear us.

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

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

Holy Immortal have mercy in us.

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

¹ or, **Deacon :** Wisdom. Stand upright.

The Epistle and Gospel Readings

Deacon : Let us attend. Wisdom.

The deacon begins a minor censing.

THE PROKEIMENON

The Prokeimenon(s) of the day is/are sung in the usual way.

Reader : The Prokeimenon in the __ tone.

The reader intones the prokeimenon.

We sing the prokeimenon in the appointed tone.

The reader intones the verse.

We sing the prokeimenon again.

The reader intones the first part of the prokeimenon (or the complete second prokeimenon).

We complete the prokeimenon (or repeat the second prokeimenon, once).

THE EPISTLE

The Epistle(s) is/are read in the usual way.

Reader : The reading from the __ Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the __n.

(– or – from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.)

(– or – from the Catholic Epistle of n __.)

The reader intones the reading(s) for the day.

At the completion, the reader says :

Reader : Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Response : Alleluia. (three times)

The reader intones the verses, and they reply :

Response : Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Gospel may only be read in this manner by a deacon, or by a subdeacon or tonsured reader specially blessed to do this. Should any other read, it may only be with a specific blessing to do so.

Deacon : The reading from the Holy Gospel according to __n.

Response : Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

The deacon reads the Gospel passag(es). On completion, they sing :

Response : Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Instead of the Augmented Litany, we sing, twelve times : (or, if desired, forty times)

Response : Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Then the singers sing, in Tone 6 :

Readers : Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom.
Remember us, O Master, when You come in Your Kingdom.
Remember us, O Holy One, when You come in Your Kingdom.

Readers : The heavenly choir hymns You, saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven, and earth are full of Your glory".

V : Come to Him, and be illumined, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir hymns You, saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven, and earth are full of Your glory".

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

The choir of the holy angels, and archangels, with all the powers of Heaven, hymn You, saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven, and earth are full of Your glory".

THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

Readers : 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 Father ; through whom all things were made ; who, because of us Men and our salvation, came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of 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 He arose on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at 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 confess one baptism for the remission of sins ; I wait for the resurrection of the dead ; and the life of the age to come.

Response : Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Deacon : O God, remit, pardon, and forgive our transgressions, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether by deeds or words whether in knowledge or ignorance, whether by night or by day, whether in mind or in reasoning ; forgive us all these, for You are good, and You love Man.

Response : Amen.

OUR FATHER

Readers : Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ; and bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

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

Response : Amen.

KONTAKS

Then the appointed kontak(s) are sung :

-Kontak(s) of the day – from the Octoechos in the proper tone, and from the Menaion of the day.

-Kontak of the Temple.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Deacon : O All-Holy Trinity, Consubstantial Dominion, Indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every good, show Your good will even unto me, the sinner. Make steadfast my heart, and grant it understanding. Take away my every defilement ; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say :

Readers : One is Holy. One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

Response : Amen.

Reader(s) : **PSALM 33** (*may be read or sung*)

I shall bless the Lord at all times ; His praise shall always be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praising ; let the meek hear, and be glad. Magnify the Lord with me, and as one, let us exalt His Name. I sought out the Lord, and He listened to me, and from all my afflictions He rescued me. Come near to Him, and be illumined, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor one cried out, and the Lord heard him, and from all his afflictions He saved him. An angel of the Lord shall encamp round about those

fearing Him, and He will rescue them. O taste, and see that the Lord is gracious. Blessed is the man who hopes on Him. Fear the Lord, all you His holy ones, for there is no want for those fearing Him. The rich have become poor and hungry, but those seeking out the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

Readers :

IT IS TRULY MEET

(or, its festal replacement)

Tone 8

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed, and most pure, and the Mother of our God.

More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

DISMISSAL

Readers : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
O Lord, bless.

Deacon : *(facing eastwards, that is, towards the Altar)*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God ; through the prayers of Your most pure mother ; by the power of the honourable, and life-giving Cross ; by the protection of the holy bodiless powers of Heaven ; through the prayers of our holy, venerable, God-bearing Fathers, and of all Your saints, have mercy on us.

Response : Amen.

We sing the "polychronion".

Then the Synaxarion, or some other edifying material may be read.

Afterwards, all come forward to venerate the Holy Cross and the Holy Gospel Book on the Analoy, and to partake of some holy water and prosphora.

Meanwhile, the singers sing, in Tone 6 :

Readers : We who are walled about by the Cross are ranged against the enemy, not fearing his devices and ambushes ; for the proud one has been destroyed and trampled underfoot by the power of Christ crucified on the Tree.

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

(first stikh of the Lity of the Temple's Altar-feast)

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

(Theotokion of the Lity of the Temple's Altar-feast)

After all have venerated, the curtain of the Royal Doors is closed, and we sing :

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

[END OF THE OBEDNITSA]