

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

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

THE SERVICE OF THE GENERAL MOLEBEN

That is, the general service of prayer¹

Presbyter : Blessed is our God, Always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Reader : Amen.

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

-or- : Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

* O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are everywhere, and fulfil 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.]

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

(three times)

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.

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.

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Reader : Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the 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

¹ The Greek Paraclesis to the Theotokos, though simpler, is related in structure, and focussed on a Canon to the Theotokos.

God. (with three metanias)

PSALM 142²

OLORD, hear my prayer ; give ear to my supplication in Your truth, hear me in Your righteousness. And do not enter into judgement with Your servant, for no-one living shall be found righteous in Your sight. For the enemy has pursued my soul ; he has humbled my life down to the earth. He made me sit in dark places, like those long dead ; and my spirit within me fell into accidie. Within me my heart was stirred up. I remembered days of old, and I meditated on all Your works, I meditated on the creations of Your hands. I spread out my hands towards You ; my soul is like a waterless land. Be swift to hear me, O LORD ; my spirit has fainted. Do not turn away Your Face from me, lest I become like those who go down into the pit. Make me hear Your mercy in the morning, for on You have I hoped. Make known to me, O LORD, the way in which I shall walk ; for to You have I raised my soul. Take me away from my enemies, O LORD, for I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God ; Your good Spirit will guide me into the land of uprightness. For Your name's sake, O LORD, You will make me live ; in Your righteousness You will lead my soul out of oppression. And in Your mercy You shall exterminate my enemies, and You shall destroy all those who oppress my soul, for I am Your servant.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God. (three times)

(There is generally no Great Litany following here.³)

The Lord is God (Tone 4)

Deacon : The Lord is God, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Response : The Lord is God, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon : All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I destroyed them.

Response : (repeat refrain above)

² In a Moleben for the Sick, we read instead **Psalm 90** ; in a Moleben Before Beginning any Good Work, **Psalm 50** ; in a Molbeben for Students Beginning Instruction, **Psalm 33** ; in a Moleben in Time of Drought, **Psalm 64** ; in Moleben for Those About to Travel, **Psalm 120** ; in a Moleben of Thanksgiving, **Psalm 64**, if its New Year ; **Psalm 117** in general thanksgiving ; **Psalm 29** for recovery from illness.

³ But on occasions where the Litany be used, the pertinent petitions are added after the usual petition "for travellers by land..." ; and we conclude from "For our rescue...".

Deacon : I shall not die, but live, and recount the works of the Lord.

Response : *(repeat refrain above)*

Deacon : The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone ; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

Response : *(repeat refrain above)*

Tropars

Tone 4 ⁴

Let us, who are sinful, and unworthy, run fervently to the Mother of God. Let us fall down in repentance, crying out from the depths of our souls, "Help us ; have mercy on us, O Lady. We are perishing in our many sins. Do not despise your poor servants, for you are our only hope".

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 steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of sinners, but in your mercy help those who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petitions, and intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honour you.

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, in accordance with Your great mercy, and in accordance with the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression of the law. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness, and from my sin cleanse me ; for I know my lawlessness, and my sin is before my face continually. Against You alone have I sinned, and evil have I done before Your Face ; so that You may be shown to be righteous in Your words, and to be victorious when You are judged ; for behold, I was conceived in lawlessness, and in sins did my mother crave to conceive me ; for behold, You have loved truth ; the unseen and hidden things of Your wisdom have You shown me. You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed ; You will wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear exultation and gladness : my humbled bones shall exult. Turn Your Face away from my sins, and blot out all my lawless acts. Build a pure heart in me, O God, and renew an upright spirit in my inward parts. Cast me not away from Your Face, and take not Your Holy Spirit away from me. Render to me the exultation of Your salvation, and with Your guiding Spirit set me fast. I shall teach the lawless Your ways, and the impious shall turn about to You. Rescue me from blood, O God, O God of my salvation. My tongue shall exult in Your righteousness. O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth shall announce Your praise ; for if You had wished for a sacrifice,

⁴ For other Molebens, there are different Tropars. See the Appendix following this Moleben for the standard alternatives.

I would have given it. With whole-burnt-offerings You will not be well-pleased. The sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit : a shattered and humbled heart, God will not reckon as nothing. Do good, O Lord, to Sion in Your good-pleasure, and let the walls of Jerousalem be built. Then You will be well-pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness – an offering and whole-burnt-offerings ; then they shall offer young bulls upon Your altar.

Canon of the Most Holy Theotokos⁵ Tone 8

Ode 1

Irmos : When Israel passed on foot over the sea as if it were dry land, and had escaped the malice of the Egyptians, then they cried out, “Let us sing to our Redeemer, and our God”.

Refrain : O Most Holy Theotokos, save us.
Distressed by many temptations, I flee to you for refuge, seeking salvation. O Virgin, and Mother of the Word, bring me safely through difficulties, and dangers. **R :**
Outbursts of passion trouble me, and fill my soul with great despondency. Calm it, O Maiden, by the peace of your Son, and God, O all-innocent one.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
I implore you, O Virgin, who gave birth to our Saviour, and God, to rescue me from perils; for to you I now run, lifting up my mind, and my soul

Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O only Theotokos, make me who am sick in body, and soul worthy of the divine visitation, and of your care, for you are good, and the bearer of the Good One.

Ode 3

Irmos : O Lord, Creator of the vault of Heaven, and builder of the Church, strengthen me in Your love, O Summit of Desire, O Support of the Faithful, O only Lover of Man. **R :**

⁵ If the service be to another saint, then another Canon may be used, together with prescribed tropars and refrains. In some cases, the Canon is not used, but only the refrains, for example :

Clergy : O Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Response : O Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

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

I have chosen you to be the protection, and intercession of my life, O Virgin Theotokos. Pilot me to your haven, O cause of all blessings, O Support of the Faithful, O only praise of all.

R :

I implore you, O Virgin, to dispel the perplexity of my soul, and the storm of my despondency ; for you, O Bride of God, bore Christ, the Prince of Peace, O only immaculate one.

Glory

O bearer of the Benefactor, and Author of good things, pour on all the riches of well-doing, and good conduct. All is possible to you, for you gave birth to Christ, mighty in power, O divinely blessed one.

Now, and ever

I am tortured by grievous sicknesses, and morbid passions. O Virgin, help me. For I know you to be the inexhaustible, unfailing treasury of healing, O all-blameless one.

Keep your servants from conflicts, O Theotokos, for after God, we all flee for refuge to you, as an impregnable wall, and protection. Look down with benevolence, O all-praised Theotokos, upon the painful affliction of my body, and heal the distress of my soul.

Immediately, we pray :

Deacon : Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hearken, and have mercy.

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

Deacon : Furthermore, we pray for our Metropolitan n , for our father, (Arch)Bishop n , (*for our Abbot/Abbess n*), for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our *brethren*⁶ in Christ.

Furthermore, we pray for the *King/Queen*, for the government of our country, and for all in public service.

Furthermore, we pray for our brethren, the priests, the priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.

Furthermore, we pray for the blessed, and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs ; and for the blessed, and ever-memorable founders of this holy *temple*⁷; and for all our *fathers, and brethren*,⁸ the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the LORD.

Furthermore, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, for

⁶“Brethren” refers to the assembled community. Many printed texts assume a monastic brotherhood, as here. If it be a female monastery, mention of “sisterhood” is appropriate. In a nonmonastic community, “brothers and sisters” is appropriate in the same way, in this petition.

⁷ house, habitation, monastery.

⁸ Refers to a monastic community ; mothers, and sisters, for a female community ; but “brothers, and sisters” for a non-monastic community.

the servants of God, nn, and for the pardon, and remission of their sins. Furthermore, we pray for those who bring offerings, and do good works, in this holy, and all-venerable *temple*; for those who labour, and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great, and rich mercy.

Presbyter : Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those far off upon the sea, and show mercy, show mercy O Master, upon us sinners; for You are a merciful God, and love Man, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Sessional Hymn *Tone 2*

O fervent intercessor, and impregnable wall; O fountain of mercy, and refuge for Man, we earnestly cry out to you, "O Theotokos, O Sovereign Lady, our only speedy intercessor – forestall, and rescue us from dangers".

Ode 4

Irmos : I have heard, O Lord, the mystery of Your economy. I contemplate Your works, and I glorify Your divine nature. **R :**
O Bride of God, who have borne the Lord, the pilot, calm the agitation of my passions, and the clamour of my transgressions. **R :**
I call upon the abyss of your compassion, "Grant it to me, for you bore the kind-hearted One, and Saviour of all who sing to you". **R :**
Enjoying your gifts, knowing you to be the Mother of God, we sing a song of thanksgiving to you, O all-pure one.

Glory...

As I lie on the bed of my pain, and sickness, help me through your loving-kindness, O only Ever-virgin Theotokos.

Now, and ever

O all-praised one, having you as our hope, our support, and our unshakeable wall of salvation, we are rescued from every difficulty.

Ode 5

Irmos : Enlighten us by Your commandments, O Lord, and by Your uplifted arm grant us Your peace, O Lover of Man. **R :**
Fill my heart with gladness by giving me your pure joy, O pure one, who bore the Cause of gladness. **R :**
Rescue us from dangers, O pure Theotokos, since you have borne our eternal Redemption, and the Peace that passes all understanding.

Glory

Dispel the darkness of my sins, O Bride of God, by the radiance of your splendour, for you have borne the Divine, and Eternal Light.

Now, and ever

O pure one, heal the disease of my passions, when you have made me worthy of your visitation, and grant me health by your intercession.

Ode 6

Irmos : I will pour out my prayer to the Lord, and to Him will I confess my grief ; for my soul is full of evil, and my life has drawn near to Hadēs ; but with Jonah do I pray, “Raise me up from corruption, O God”.

R :

O Virgin, implore your Son, and Lord, who from death, and corruption has saved my nature, captured by corruption, and death, by giving Himself to death, to rescue me from the evil actions of my enemies. **R :** I know you as the intercessor, and safest guardian of my life, O Virgin, who put a stop to the swarm of temptations, and drive off the insolent onsets of devils ; and I pray continually, “Rescue me from the corruption of my passions”.

Glory

We have you as a wall of refuge, and the perfect salvation of our souls, and a release from our afflictions, O Maiden, and we always rejoice in your light. O Sovereign Lady, keep us safe now from passions, and dangers.

Now, and ever

I now lie on a bed of infirmities, and there is no healing for my flesh ; but, O gracious Lady, who bore God, and the Saviour of the world, and the Healer of sickness, I pray to you, “Raise me up from the corruption of disease”.

Sessional Hymn

Tone 2

O fervent intercessor, and impregnable wall, O fountain of mercy, and refuge for Man, we earnestly cry out to you, O Theotokos, O Sovereign Lady, forestall, and rescue us from dangers, our only speedy intercessor.

And immediately we pray :

Deacon : Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hearken, and have mercy.

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

Deacon : Furthermore, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, for the servants of God nn, and for the pardon, and remission of their sins.

Presbyter : For You are a merciful God, and love Man, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Kontak

Tone 6

O unfailing Intercessor for Christians, O constant Mediatrix before the Creator, despise not the supplication of us sinners ; but of your goodness, come speedily to help us, who call on you in faith. Hasten to offer swift intercession, and prayer for us, O Theotokos,

ever protecting those who venerate you.



Prokeimenon⁹ *Psalm 44:18, 11*

I will remember your name * from generation to generation.

V : Listen, O daughter, behold, and incline your ear.

Deacon : And that we may be counted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, God.

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

Deacon : Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Presbyter : Peace be to all.

Response : And to your spirit.

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

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

Deacon : Let us attend.

Presbyter : *reads from Luke (1. 39-49, 56)*

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



Then, immediately :

Tone 6

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Merciful One, blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

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

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy, and according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgressions.

Do not entrust me to the protection of Men, o all-holy Sovereign Lady, but accept the plea of your servant, for affliction has overcome me. I cannot endure the arrows shot by demons. I have no shelter in my misery, nor do I know where to run for refuge. I am always the vanquished, and have no other consolation than you, O Sovereign Lady of the world. O hope, and protection of the Faithful, despise not my plea, but rather make it prosper.

Deacon : O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world in mercy, and compassion. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Your rich mercies ; through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Theotokos, and Ever-virgin Mary ; by the protection of the precious, and Life-giving Cross ; through the protection of the honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven ; through the supplications of the honourable, and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord, John ; of the holy, glorious, and all-

⁹ Prokeimenon, Epistle, Alleluia, and Gospel change according to the nature of the Moleben. See the Appendix to this Moleben for some alternatives.

laudable Apostles ; of our Fathers amongst the saints : hierarchs, and ecumenical Teachers : Athanasius, and Cyril of Alexandria, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom ; of our fathers amongst the saints, the hierarchs, Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonder-worker ; of our monastic father Herman, the Elder, and Wonder-worker of Alaska, and North America ; of n, patron of this holy *temple* ; of n, whose memory we keep today ; of the holy, and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim, and Anna ; and of all the saints, hear us sinners, who pray unto You, and have mercy on us.

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

Presbyter : Through the mercy, and compassion and love towards Man of Your Only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and Life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Ode 7

Irmos : Having arrived in Babylon from Judea, the Youths of old, by their faith in the Trinity, trod down the flame of the furnace, singing, “O God of our fathers, blessed are You”. **R :**

Wishing to accomplish our salvation, You dwelt in the womb of the Virgin, O Saviour, and revealed her to the world as the Mediatrix. O God of our fathers, blessed are You. **R :**

O pure Mother who bore the Lover of mercy, implore Him to rescue from sins, and corruptions of the soul, those who cry out with faith, “O God of our fathers, blessed are You”. **R :**

Prevail by your petitions, O pure Mother, with the One, whom you bore, who ever tends to mercy ; that we may be rescued from transgressions, and corruption of soul, who cry out with faith, “O God of our fathers, blessed are You”.

Glory

You have shown her, that gave You birth, to be a treasury of salvation, a fountain of incorruption, a tower of safety, and a door of repentance, to those who cry out, “O God of our fathers, blessed are You”.

Now, and ever

O Theotokos, grant healing for the weakness of our bodies, and for the sickness of our souls, to those who, with love, appeal to Your divine protection, O Virgin, who bore Christ the Saviour.

Ode 8

Irmos : The King of Heaven, whom hosts of angels praise, let us praise, and exalt throughout all ages. **R :**

Do not disregard those who need your help, O Virgin, and who sing and exalt you, O Maiden, throughout the ages. **R :**

You heal the pains of my body, and the infirmities of my soul, O Virgin, that I may praise you, O Pure One, throughout all ages.

Glory

You pour an abundance of healing, O Virgin, on those who, with faith, sing to you, and extol your ineffable childbearing.

Now, and ever

You drive away the assaults of temptations, and the attacks of passions, O Virgin ; therefore, we sing to you throughout all ages.

Ode 9

Irmos : Saved by you, O pure Virgin, we confess you to be supremely the Theotokos, and, with the bodiless choirs, we magnify you. **R :**

Turn not away from the torrent of my tears, O Virgin, who bore Christ, who wiped away all tears from every face. **R :**

Fill my heart with joy, O Virgin, who received the Fulness of Joy, and extirpate the affliction of sin. **R :**

Be the haven, and protection, and the unshakable wall, the refuge, and shelter, and gladness, O Virgin, of all that flee to you for refuge.

Glory

With the rays of your light, O Virgin, enlighten those that, with true faith, confess you to be the Theotokos ; and banish the darkness of ignorance.

Now, and ever

In the place of suffering, O Virgin, heal me, humbled by infirmity ; and transform me from sickness to health.

Then, immediately we sing :

Readers : 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.

Then these Theotokos-Hymns :

Readers : Let us honour in hymns, the one who is higher than the heavens, and purer than the resplendent rays of the sun – the one, who rescued us from the curse, the Sovereign Lady of the world.
My body has become infirm, and my soul also is enfeebled by the multitude of my sins ; to you I flee for refuge, O Full of Grace, the hope of the despairing, O help me.
O Sovereign Lady, and Mother of the Redeemer :accept the plea of your unworthy servants, that you may mediate before Him whom you bore. O Sovereign Lady of the world, be our mediatrix.
With ardour, and rejoicing, we now sing a hymn to you, O most-praised Theotokos. Together with the Forerunner, and all the saints, intercede, O Theotokos, that we may receive compassion.
O all you hosts of angels, O Forerunner of the Lord, O Twelve Apostles, and all the saints, together with the Theotokos : intercede for us, that we may be saved.

Reader : Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(three times)

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.

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.

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Reader : Amen.

And these Tropars in Tone 6 :

Readers : Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to You, as to our Master, this entreaty, "Have mercy on us".

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

O Lord, have mercy on us, for in You have we put our trust. Do not be angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since you are compassionate, and rescue us from our enemies ; for You are our God, and we are your people, we are all the work of Your hands, and we call on Your Name.

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

O Holy Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us, whose hope is in you, that we may not perish, but be rescued from all the adversity surrounding us, through you, that are the salvation of the Christian race.

Then, immediately we pray :

Deacon : Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hearken, and have mercy.

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

(and so, after each petition)

Deacon : Furthermore, we pray for our Metropolitan n, for our father, (Arch)Bishop n, (for our Abbot/Abbess n), for priests, deacons, and all

other clergy, and for all our *brethren* ¹⁰ in Christ.

Furthermore, we pray for the *King/Queen*, for the government of our country, and for all in public service.

Furthermore, we pray for our brethren, the priests, the priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.

Furthermore, we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs ; and for the blessed, and ever-memorable founders of this holy *temple* ¹¹; and for all our *fathers, and brethren*, ¹² the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the LORD.

Furthermore, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, for the servants of God, nn, and for the pardon, and remission of their sins.

Furthermore, we pray for those who bring offerings, and do good works in this holy, and all-venerable *temple* ; for those who labour, and those who sing ; and for all the people here present, who await Your great, and rich mercy.

Presbyter : Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those far off upon the sea ; and show mercy, show mercy O Master, upon us sinners ; for You are a merciful God, and love Man, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Deacon : Let us pray to the most holy Theotokos.

Response : O Most holy Theotokos, save us. ¹³

Presbyter : O all-holy Sovereign Lady Theotokos, you are higher than all the angels, and archangels, and more honoured than all creation ; you are the sustainer of the wronged, the hope of the despairing, the intercession for the humble, the consolation of the distressed, the nourisher of the hungry, the clother of the naked, the healer of the sick, the salvation of sinners, the help, and protection of all Christians. O all-merciful Sovereign Lady, Virgin Theotokos, by your graciousness, save, and have mercy on all earthly rulers ; on our Metropolitan, Holy Synod, Archbishops, Bishops ; on all the priestly, and monastic orders ; and shelter under Your precious veil all the charitable Orthodox Christians. And by your entreaties, O Sovereign Lady, move Christ our God, who was incarnate of you without seed, that He may gird us with His might from on high against our invisible, and visible enemies. O most merciful Lady Theotokos, Sovereign Lady, raise us up from the depth of sins, and rescue us from famine, and ruin ; from earthquake, and flood ; from fire, and sword ; from invasion of strangers,

¹⁰ “Brethren” refers to the assembled community. Many printed texts assume a monastic brotherhood, as here. If it is a female monastery, mention of “sisterhood” is appropriate. In a non-monastic community, “brothers and sisters” could be appropriate in the same way, in this petition.

¹¹ house, habitation, monastery.

¹² Refers to a monastic community : Mothers, and sisters, for a female community, but “brothers, and sisters” for a non-monastic community.

¹³ The prayer is usually offered “on bended knees”. If the prayer be to a particular saint, the deacon would say :

Deacon : Let us pray to Saint n.

Response : O holy (*father/mother/martyr*) n, pray to God for us.

and civil war ; from sudden death ; from attack of enemies ; from pestilential winds, and plague, and from every evil. Grant, O Sovereign Lady, peace, and health to your servants, all the Orthodox Christians ; and enlighten their minds and the eyes of their hearts towards salvation ; and make us, your sinful servants, worthy of the Kingdom of your Son, Christ our God ; for His dominion is blessed, and most glorious, with His Unoriginate Father, and His all-holy, good, and Life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Presbyter : Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, and our hope, glory be to You.

Reader : 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.
In the Name of the Lord, holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : *pronounces the dismissal of the day.*

Reader : Amen.

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



APPENDIX :

1. **The Order of a Moleben for Various Needs**

Usual beginning, and Psalm ; no Great Litany.

The Lord is God, *in the tone of the first tropar.*

Tropar : *(If to Christ, in Tone 2) :*

We bow before Your most pure image, O Good One, begging You to forgive us our sins, O Christ our God. You willingly ascended the Cross in the flesh, to free us from the snare of Satan. For this, we thank You, O Lord, and we cry out to You, "You filled all things with joy, O Saviour, when You came to save the world".

(If to the Theotokos, in Tone 4) :

Let us, who are sinful and unworthy, run fervently to the Mother of God. Let us fall down in repentance, crying out from the depths of our souls, "Help us, have mercy on us, O Lady. We are perishing in our many sins. Do not despise your poor servants ; for you are our only hope".

(If to a saint, the proper Tropar in the prescribed tone.)

Psalm 50

Canon as appointed.

-After the Third Ode, these refrains :

The clergy first sing the refrain, and the singers repeat :

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You. *(In a service to the Saviour.)*

O most holy Theotokos, save us. *(In a service to the Theotokos.)*

O holy *(hierarch/father/mother/martyr)*, n , pray to God for us. *(In a service for others.)*

Then the clergy introduce :

Clergy : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit ;

Response : now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

-And one of the following standard hymns, also :

In a service to the Saviour :

Rescue us from evil, O Merciful One, for we run to You in our afflictions. O Lord, Jesus Christ, save our souls.

In a service to the Theotokos :

Rescue us from danger, O Mother of God, for we run to your intercession. O Lady, surround us with the wall of your prayer.

In a service to any saint :

Pray to God for us, O Holy (*hierarch/father/mother/martyr*) n ,
for we run to your protection. Hasten to help us, and to pray for
our souls.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication, with the response :

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

The continuation of the Canon.

After the Sixth Ode, the refrains, as above, are taken ; then, immediately,
the appropriate Akathist Hymn, if it be appointed, and/or the Gospel
Sequence, beginning with the prokeimenon.



-The Gospel Sequence, if appointed, including prokeimenon, (*Epistle, alleluia,*) Gospel, is taken with texts appointed according to the service.

In a service to the Saviour :

The prokeimenon in the fourth tone : *Psalm 88*
O Lord, they shall walk in the light of Your Face, * and in Your
Name, shall they exult all the day long.

V : Of Your mercies, O Lord, shall I sing forever ;
from generation to generation, I shall make
known Your truth in my mouth.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke (18:1-8).

In a service to the Theotokos :

The prokeimenon in the fourth tone : *Psalm 44*
I will remember your name * from generation to generation.

V : My heart has bubbled forth a good word ; I myself
speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen
of a swift-writing scribe.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:39-49, 56).

In a service to a saint :

The prokeimenon of Matins, as prescribed for the saint.

The Gospel of Matins, as prescribed for the saint.



The remainder of the Canon is taken.

After the Ninth Ode, the refrains as above, followed immediately by the
Hymn to the Theotokos : either “It is truly meet...”, or a prescribed
replacement.

Trisagion Prayers.

The Augmented Litany, with the response :

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

The appropriate prayer.
The Dismissal.



2.

Moleben of General Thanksgiving

Usual beginning, and psalm.

Great Litany.

The Lord is God, in the Fourth Tone.

Tropars : *Tone 4*

We, Your unworthy servants, O Lord, grateful for the blessings You have given to us, always praise, bless, and thankfully glorify Your loving-kindness, crying out to You with love, and humble submissiveness, O Saviour, and Benefactor, glory be to You”.

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

Freely, You grant us rich blessings, O Master, although we are unprofitable servants. In all our needs, we run to You. You shower us with many gifts. Now, we thank You, with all our heart ; we glorify You, our Creator, and Defender. We cry out to You from the depths of our souls, “Glory be to You, O God most bountiful”.

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

O Mother of God, help of Christians, you have favoured us with your protection. We, your servants, gratefully cry out to you, Rejoice, O most pure Virgin Theotokos. By your prayers, rescue us from every calamity ; for you are a speedy helper in times of trouble.

If it be thanksgiving for a particular church or parish, instead of the second two tropars, at “Glory.”.., we sing the tropar of the temple ; and at “Now, and ever.”.., we sing the kontak of the temple. If the thanksgiving be offered in the period of a Great Feast, the tropar, and kontak of the period must be included. If the thanksgiving be for the Church in general, the tropar, and kontak of the Holy Cross may be used.



Gospel Sequence :

Prokeimenon in Tone 4 :

Psalm 12

I shall sing to the Lord my benefactor ; * and to the Lord Most High shall I chant.

V : I have hoped in Your mercy ; my heart will exult at Your salvation.

Epistle : Ephesians (5:8-21) (*general thanksgiving*)

– **or** – Romans (13:1-8) (*civil*)

Alleluia

Gospel : Luke (17:12-19) (*general thanksgiving*)

– **or** – Matthew (22:15-22) (*civil*)



The Augmented Litany, with the response :

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

After the exclamation, the prayer is introduced :

Deacon : Let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

And the presbyter reads the prayer of thanksgiving, which concludes with :
[...] Glory be to You, O God our Saviour, unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

And, if it be prescribed, we immediately sing the following hymn :

Te Deum Laudamus

(We Praise You, O God.)

by Saint Ambrose of Milan

We praise You, O God ; we confess You to be the Lord. All the earth worships You, the eternal Father. To You, all the angels, to You, the heavens, and the universal powers, to You, the cherubim, and seraphim, with unceasing voice proclaim, “Holy, Holy, Holy”, O Lord, God Sabaoth¹⁴. Heaven, and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory. The glorious choir of the Apostles confess You ; the laudable company of the prophets confess You ; the white-robed army of martyrs confess You ; the holy Church, throughout the whole earth, confesses You – O Father of infinite majesty, and Your adorable, true, and only Son, and Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

You are the King of glory, O Christ. You are the eternal Son of the Father. When You had undertaken to rescue Man, You did not abhor the Virgin’s womb. You overcame the sting of death, to open to believers the Kingdom of Heaven. You sit at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that You are the judge to come. We, therefore, beseech You to come to help Your servants, whom You redeemed with Your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Your saints, in eternal glory.

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance ; both govern them, and exalt them forever. Day by day we bless You, and praise Your Name forever, and unto the ages of ages.

¹⁴ Hebrew : “of hosts”. Sometimes, it is thus translated ; sometimes, it is retained as “Sabaoth”, and used as a title.

Deem us worthy, O Lord, of passing this day without sin. Have mercy
on us, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be
upon us, even as we have hoped in You. In You, O Lord, have I hoped ;
let me not be confounded unto the ages.

And the dismissal.

The Many Years may be intoned, if prescribed.



3.

Moleben for the Sick

Usual beginning, Psalm 90.

Great Litany

The Lord is God, in Tone 4.

Tropars : (*Tone 4*)

You alone can help us, O Christ. Visit Your suffering servants. Rescue (*him/her/them*) from sickness and affliction. Raise (*him/her/them*) up to sing Your praise, O Lover of Man, through the prayers of the Theotokos. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ;

(*Tone 2*)

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

O Saviour, You healed the paralytic carried to You. You raised the mother-in-law of Peter from her infirmity. Take pity on Your servant(s). Heal (*his/her/their*) sickness(es) and forgive all (*his/her/their*) sin(s). You have borne our afflictions, O Mighty Lord. You have carried all our sorrows, O Lover of Man.

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Gospel Sequence :

Prokeimenon in Tone 7 :

Psalm 6

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak. * Heal me, O Lord, for my very bones have been stirred up.

V : In death there is no-one to remember You. In Hadēs, who will confess You ?

Epistle from the Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle James (5:10-16).

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew (8:1-17).

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Augmented Litany, with the response :

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

After the exclamation, the deacon introduces the prayer :

Deacon : Moreover, and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

And the Dismissal.

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4.

Moleben for Beginning Any Good Work

Usual beginning, Psalm 50.

Great Litany.

The Lord is God, in Tone 2.

Tropars : (*Tone 2*)

O God, the Creator, and Master of all, bless, and direct the work of our hands. As we begin, may we praise Your name. Help us to finish, and rescue us from evil ; for You alone are the merciful Lover of Man.

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

(*Tone 3*)

Hasten to help, and protect us, O Lord. Come, and abide amongstst us, Your servants. Let Your Grace bless, and strengthen us. Guide the work of our hands. All things are possible for You, O Almighty Creator.

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

(*Tone 4*)

O Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant Advocate before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of sinners ; but, in your mercy, help those who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petitions, and to intercede for us, O Theotokos ; for you always protect those who honour you.



Gospel Sequence :

Prokeimenon in Tone 4 :

Psalm 89

Let the splendour of the Lord our God be upon us, * and direct the works of our hands for us.

V : Yea, direct the work of our hands.

Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Philippians (2:12-16).

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew (7:7-11).



Augmented Litany, with the response :

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

And after the exclamation, the deacon introduces the prayer :

Deacon : Let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

And the dismissal.



5. Moleben for Students Beginning Instruction

Usual beginning, and Psalm 33.

Great Litany.

The Lord is God, in Tone 6.

Tropars : (Tone 6)

You came to Your disciples, and gave them peace, O Saviour ; so, also, come to us, and save us. Your Holy Spirit made Your illiterate disciples into teachers, O Christ our God ; and by the gift of tongues, He destroyed idolatry by His Almighty power.

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

(Tone 8)

You are most blessed, O Christ our God. You have revealed the fishermen as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. Through them, You have drawn the world into Your net. Glory be to You, O Lover of Man.

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

(Tone 4)

O Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant Advocate before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of sinners ; but, in your mercy, help those who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petitions, and intercede for us, O Theotokos ; for you always protect those who honour you.

If this service be offered in a festal time, then the Festal Tropar is sung in place of this Theotokos-Hymn ; or, the tropar of the school may be sung.



Gospel Sequence :

The Prokeimenon in Tone 4 :

Psalm 8

Out of the mouths of sucklings, and infants, * have You perfected praise.

V : O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth.

Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (1:16-20 ; 3:14-21).

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel according to John (17:1-26) ; -or- : Mark (10:13-16).



Augmented Litany, with the response

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

After the exclamation, the deacon introduces the prayer :

Deacon : Let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

And the Dismissal.



6.

Moleben in Time of Drought.

Usual beginning, and Psalm.

Great Litany.

The Lord is God, in Tone 2.

Tropars : (*Tone 2*)

Give us favourable weather, O Lord. Bestow generous rain on the earth, that it may bear abundant fruit for Your people. In Your mercy, feed every living creature, through the prayers of the Theotokos and all the saints.

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

We fall down before You, O our Creator, and sustainer. You are truly the giver of all good things. Spare us, O Lord, and forgive us our sins ; turn away Your righteous anger from Your servants. Send abundant rain to the thirsty earth, for You alone are merciful.

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

(*Tone 4*)

O Steadfast Protectress of Christians, Constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of sinners ; but, in Your mercy, help those who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petitions, and intercede for us, O Theotokos ; for you always protect those who honour you.



Gospel Sequence :

Prokeimenon in Tone 4 :

Psalm 64

O Lord, You will bless the crown of the year with Your loving-kindness ; * and Your plains shall be filled with opulence.

V : Inebriate the furrows, increase the crops of the earth.

Epistle from the Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle James (5:5-11, 16-18).

Alleluia

V : The river of God has been filled with water. You have prepared their food, for such is Your provision.

V : The rams of the flocks shall be clothed, and the valleys filled with grain. They shall shout, and indeed sing hymns.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew (16:1-4) ; and Luke (4:24-27) ; and John (6:30-33).



The Augmented Litany, with the response :

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

And the additional petition, with the response :

Response : Lord, have mercy. (*Forty times*)

And the deacon introduces the prayer :

Deacon : Moreover, and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

And the Dismissal.



7.

Moleben for Those About to Travel

Usual beginning, and psalm.

Great Litany.

The Lord is God, in Tone 2.

Tropars : (Tone 2)

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, You sent Raphael, the Archangel, as a guide for Tobias. So, now, send Your Angel to accompany Your servant(s). May He protect *(him/her/them)* from every evil thing. Bless *(his/her/their)* journey, that *(he/she/they)* may glorify Your name, O Lover of Man, through the prayers of the Theotokos.

-Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. With Luke, and Cleopas, You walked to Emmaus, O Saviour. Now, accompany Your servant(s) in *(his/her/their)* travels. Rescue *(him/her/them)* from the assaults of the evil one ; for in Your will, all things are possible, O Lover of Man.

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

(Tone 4)

O Steadfast Protectress of Christians, Constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of sinners ; but in Your mercy, help those who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petitions, and to intercede for us, O Theotokos ; for you always protect those who honour you.

But if the journey be by sea, then the following tropars are sung :

(Tone 2)

O Saviour, do not despise those who pray to You. May Your almighty hand bless, and help them. You are our Creator, and Master ; Your apostles cried out, "Save us" ; and with a single word, You calmed the sea. Give your servant(s) a calm, and untroubled journey. Preserve *(him/her/them)* in good health, O Lover of Man, through the prayers of the Theotokos.

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

(Tone 5)

O Saviour, help, and protect *(him/her/them)* who hope in You. May this journey enable *(him/her/them)* to accomplish good deeds, that *(he/she/they)* may glorify You, O Giver of all good things.

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

(Tone 6)

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Virgin Theotokos. Despise not our prayer in our afflictions, but rescue us from harm, O only pure, only blessed One.



Gospel Sequence :

Prokeimenon in Tone 4 :

Psalm 142

Make known to me, O Lord, the way in which I shall walk ; * for to You have I raised my soul.

V : Take me away from my enemies, O Lord, for I have fled to You.

Or : *if the journey be by sea-*

Psalm 22

Even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, * I shall fear no evil, for You are with me.

V : Your mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (8:26-29)

Or : *if the journey be by sea-* (20:36-21:7)

Alleluia :

Psalm 36

V : By the Lord are the steps of Man directed, and he shall greatly delight in His way.

V : Disclose your way to the Lord, hope in Him and He will act.

Or : *if the journey be by sea-*

Psalm 68

V : He took me out of many waters. He will rescue me from my powerful enemies.

V : Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:1-14)

Or : *if the journey be by sea-*

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (4:35-41)



Augmented Litany, with the response :

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

And introducing the prayer, the deacon says :

Deacon : Devoutly bowing our heads and knees unto the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

And the Dismissal with sprinkling of Holy Water.



8.

Moleben for the New Year

Usual beginning, with psalm.

Great Litany.

The Lord is God, in Tone 4.

Tropars : (*Tone 4*)

We, Your unworthy servants, O Lord, grateful for the blessings You have given to us, always praise, bless and thankfully glorify Your loving-kindness, crying out to You with love, and humble submissiveness. O Saviour, and Benefactor, glory be to You.

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

Freely, You grant us rich blessings, O Master, although we are unprofitable servants. In all our needs, we run to You. You shower us with many gifts. Now, we thank You with all our heart. We glorify You, our Creator, and Defender. We cry out to You from the depths of our souls, Glory be to You, O God most bountiful.

-Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. (*Tone 2*)

O Master of all created things, You have established seasons, and years by your power. Bless this new year with Your bounty.

Preserve this land, and its people in peace ; and save us, through the prayers of the Theotokos.



Gospel Sequence :

Prokeimenon in Tone 4 :

Psalm 12

I shall sing to the LORD, my benefactor ; * and to the LORD, Most High, shall I chant.

V : He took me out of many waters. He will rescue me from my powerful enemies.

The Reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Alleluia

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (4:16-22)



The Augmented Litany, with the response :

Response : Lord, have mercy. (*two petitions*) and then...

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

Then the deacon introduces the prayer :

Deacon : Moreover, and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.
And, if appointed, “Te Deum Laudamus” (as previous, no. 1).
And the Dismissal.

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[THE END OF THE MOLEBEN]