

## ***Great Vespers (tone 5), Sunday before Christmas***

**Priest:** Blessed is our God always; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

### **Psalm 104 (103)**

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: Who maketh his angels spirits: his ministers a flaming fire: Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they do down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heavens have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. he causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth: And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted; Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Thou makest darkness and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping, innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, who thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

The sun knowth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all.

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, O God. (three times)

O our God and our Hope, Glory to Thee.

### **The Great Ektenia**

**Priest:** In Peace let us pray to the Lord.

(The Choir responds **Lord have mercy** to each petition).

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

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our president, civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

"O LORD, I HAVE CRIED"  
TONE

**Choir:** O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.

The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.

They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.

But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.

Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.

I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.

I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.

In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.

Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.

I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

**Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess thy name:**

With thy noble Cross, O Christ, thou hast put the devil to shame, and with thy Resurrection thou hast annihilated the thorn of death. Thou hast saved us too from the gates of death. Wherefore, do we glorify thee, O only One.

**For the righteous shall await me, until thou recompense me.**

The Bestower of resurrection to mankind was verily led like a lamb to slaughter. Therefore, the captains of hades were terrified by him, and its portals of agony were lifted for Christ the King of glory hath entered it, saying to those in bonds, Come ye out! And to those in darkness, Be ye manifest!

**Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.**

The wonder is verily great; for the Creator of unseen creatures hath suffered in the flesh for his love of mankind; and the deathless One hath risen up. Come ye, therefore, O tribes of the nations, let us bow to him in worship; for by his compassion have we been liberated from disobedience and have learned how to praise the one God in three Persons.

**Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.**

O Light that is not apprehended by eventide, we offer thee evening worship; for thou hast risen on the world at the completeness of time as in a mirror; and thou didst descend to hades and dissolved the darkness therein, revealing to the nations the light of the Resurrection. Wherefore, O Lord, Giver of light, glory to thee.

**Tone 8 For the Forefeast** *O all-lauded Martyrs*  
**If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with thee there is forgiveness.**

O pure living palace of our God, \* O all-blameless Virgin, He Whom all the Heavens cannot contain hath been contained in thee. \* Past all understanding, \* thou shalt bear Him in the cave; \* for He hath been made poor and hath taken flesh that He might deify \* and make rich me, who was rendered poor \* by a surfeit \* of exceeding bitter food.

**Because of thy Name have I waited for thee, O Lord: my soul hath waited upon thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.**

At Caesar's commandment, Thou, O Christ, \* wast enrolled with us Thy servants in Thy tender compassion that Thou mightest come to grant \* freedom and redemption \* and Thine everlasting life \* to us, Thy thankless servants, who worship Thy divine and saving Birth, \* O long-suffering and forbearing Lord, \* since Thou camest \* that Thou mightest save our souls.

**From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.**

The all-holy Virgin free of blame \* having pondered on the great incomprehensible childbirth that transfigured and made new \* nature's established bound'ries, \* she cried out unto her Son: \* O most beloved Child, I am sore amazed at this great mystery; \* how I gave birth, and am virgin still, \* by Thy power, \* Who hast made all by Thy will.

**Tone 8 For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.**

As we the faithful celebrate today \* the Forefathers' memory, \* let us praise Christ the Redeemer and our King, \* Who magnified them in the midst \* of all nations upon the earth \* and through faith accomplished strange and wondrous signs, \* performing marvels and miracles, \* since He is powerful and strong, \* and Who from them hath shown unto us \* that rod of power prophesied: \* Mary, the Child of God, \* who alone had no experience of man \* and from whom came the Flower, \* the promised Christ, Who sprouted life for all, \* inexhaustible delight, \* and our salvation to eternity.

**Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people.**

As in a gentle shower 'midst the flame, \* the Children of God rejoiced \* as they walked about amidst the Spirit's

dew; \* and in the flame they mystically \* did prefigure the Trinity \* and the wondrous Incarnation of Christ God; \* since they were wise, by their faith in God \* they quenched the power of the fire; \* and righteous Daniel was also seen \* to muzzle lions in the den. \* Since Thou, O Friend of man, \* art entreated by their prayers in our behalf, \* rescue us all, O Savior, \* from the eternal fire that nought can quench, \* and vouchsafe that we attain \* unto Thy Kingdom in the Heavens, O Lord.

**For his mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.**

When in the furnace of the blazing flame, \* Thy holy and faithful Youths \* proved to be as in a cool, refreshing dew; \* then did they mystically portray \* from before that Thou wast to come \* from a Virgin whom Thy brightness would not burn. \* As for Thy coming the second time \* in Thy dread glory as our God, \* the wondrous Prophet and righteous man, \* great Daniel, clearly hath foretold, \* when he cried out and said: \* I beheld until the thrones were set in place \* and the Judge sat for judgment; \* and then rushed forth the river of that fire, \* from the which may we be saved, \* by their entreaties, O our Master Christ.

**Tone 6    Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:**

Verily, Daniel, the man of desires, when he saw thee, O Lord, a Stone cut out without hands, did forecall thee a babe born without seed, O Word incarnate of the Virgin, the untransformed God, Savior of our souls.

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

The sign of the virgin bride who knew not wedlock was at one time revealed in the Red Sea; for there Moses did cleave the waters, and there Gabriel was minister of a miracle. At that time Israel crossed the deep and their feet were not wet, and now the Virgin hath given birth to Christ without

seed. The sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel, and the blameless one remained incorruptible after giving birth to Immanuel. Therefore, O eternal God, who was before eternity, and who didst appear as man, have mercy upon us.

**Priest:** Wisdom Let us Attend.

### **The Hymn of Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps**

**Choir:** O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Give of life; therefore all the world doth glorify thee

**Priest:** The Evening Prokeimenon

### **The Vesperal Prokeimena**

**The Lord is king, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.**

The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength

**The Lord is king, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.**

For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

**The Lord is king,**

**He is clothed with majesty.**

**Priest:** Wisdom

**Reader:** The reading is from Genesis (14:14-20)

**Priest:** Let us Attend.

**Reader:** When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he

and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his goods, and the women and the people. After his return from the defeat of Ched-or-lao'mer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Mel-chiz'edek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"

**Priest:** Wisdom

**Reader:** The reading is from Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

**Priest:** Let us Attend.

**Reader:** Thus said Moses to the sons of Israel: Behold, I have delivered the land before you; go in and inherit the land, which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spake to you at that time, saying: I shall not be able to bear you by myself. The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and behold, ye are today as the stars of heaven for multitude. The Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousand-fold more than ye are, and bless you as He hath spoken to you. So I took of you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you as rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of tens, and instructors for your judges. And I commanded your judges at that time, saying: Hear causes between your brethren, and judge justly between a man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. Thou shalt not have respect to persons in judgment, thou shalt judge small and great equally; thou shalt not shrink from before the person of a man, for the judgment is God's.

**Priest:** Wisdom

**Reader:** The reading is from Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

**Priest:** Let us Attend.

**Reader:** Thus said Moses to the sons of Israel: Behold, the heaven, and the Heaven of heaven, belong to the Lord thy God, the earth and all things that are therein. Yet the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and above all nations, as at this day He chose you out of their seed after them. Therefore, ye shall circumcise the hardness of your heart, and ye shall not harden your neck. For the Lord our God, He is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great, and strong, and terrible God, Who doth not respect persons, nor will He by any means accept a bribe; executing judgment for the stranger and orphan and widow, and He loveth the stranger to give him food and raiment. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve Him, and shalt cleave to Him, and shalt swear by His Name. He is thy boast, and He is thy God, Who hath wrought for thee these great and glorious things, which thine eyes have seen.

### **The Ektenia**

**Priest:** Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

*(the Choir responds Lord, have mercy to the first two petitions.)*

O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*(The choir responds Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy to this and the remaining petitions.)*

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan, N.

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for *(the servants of God, NN., and)* all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church *(and for the servants of God, NN.,)* and all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir: Amen.**

### **The Evening Prayer**

**Reader:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy be upon us O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master; make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy one: enlighten me with thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages Amen.

## The Litany of Supplication

**Priest:** Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy (*after the first two petitions.*)

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

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant, this, O Lord. (*after the remaining petitions*)

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless blameless, peaceful and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy immaculate, 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.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

**Priest:** Peace be to all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** Bow our heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and thine inheritance; for unto thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating thy mercy and looking confidently for thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Aposticha**

O Christ Savior, who didst become incarnate without leaving heaven, thee do we magnify with the voice of song; for thou didst accept the Cross and death for the sake of our human race; for thou art the Lord, and Lover of mankind. Thou didst demolish the gates of hades, rising on the third day, and saving our souls.

**The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel.  
The Lord hath put on His apparel and hath girded  
Himself with strength**

Thy side being stabbed, O Giver of life, didst nevertheless overflow for all with springs of forgiveness, life, and salvation. And accepting death in the flesh, thou didst bestow on us deathlessness. And dwelling in a tomb, thou didst free us and raise us in glory with thee, since thou art God. Wherefore, do we exclaim to thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind, glory to thee.

**For He hath made the round world so that it shall not  
be moved.**

Wonderful is thy Crucifixion and thy descent to hades, O Lord, Lover of mankind; for thou didst lead it captive, since thou art God, raising with thee in glory those who of old had been chained. Thou didst open to them paradise and didst make them worthy to enjoy it. Grant us, therefore, forgiveness of sins, who glorify thy third-day Resurrection, and prepare us for dwellings in paradise, since thou art compassionate.

**Holiness becometh Thy house forever O Lord.**

O thou who, for our sake, didst submit to sufferings in the flesh, and who didst rise from the dead in three days, heal the sufferings of our bodies and lift us up from our heavy sins, O Lover of mankind, and save us.

Tone 2 **Glory to the Father and to the Son and To the Holy Spirit:**

Rejoice O honored Prophets, who did organize well the law of the Lord, and appeared as stable, unshakeable pillars of faith; for verily, they became mediators of the New Covenant of Christ. Wherefore, having been translated to heaven, plead ye with him to grant safety to the world and to save our souls.

## **Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Behold, the time of our salvation approacheth; make thou ready, O cave; for it is time for the Virgin to give birth: and thou, Bethlehem of Judah, rejoice and be happy; for from thee shall shine forth our Lord. Listen, O mountains and hills and the regions about Judah; for Christ cometh to save man whom he did create; for he is the Lover of mankind.

### **The Hymn of Simeon the God-receiver**

**Reader:** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, 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.

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.

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

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Troparion**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 2    Sunday before the Nativity of Christ  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as thou at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, Have mercy upon us.

**Tone 4    For the Fore-feast  
Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. \* Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life \* hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. \* Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, \* wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, \* and as we eat thereof we shall all live, \* and shall not die as did Adam. \* For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

**Priest:** Wisdom.

**Choir:** Father Bless.

**Priest:** Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest:** Most holy Theotokos, save us.

**Choir:** More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

**Priest:** Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

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

### **The Great Dismissal**

**Priest:** May he who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and god-bearing fathers; of the Glorious Prophet Elias, patron of this Church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the **of all those who of old have been well-pleasing to God, from Adam down to Joseph the Betrothed, of the prophets and prophetesses, especially of Daniel the prophet and the three holy youths; of the holy Ten Martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; and Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians,** whose memory we

celebrate and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

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

**Choir:** Amen