

The Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness

The priest comes to the ambon, faces the faithful, and says:

Priest: Good brothers and sisters,
grant me your blessing
and pardon me all the wrongs I have done this day,
in word or deed or thought,
with all my spiritual and bodily faculties.

Response: May God himself forgive you, Reverend Father, and have mercy on you!

Bless us, Reverend Father,
and forgive us the wrongs that we have done this day,
in word or deed or thought,
with each of our spiritual and bodily faculties.

Priest: Through his grace, may God forgive you also,
and may he have mercy on you all!

After this exchange, the faithful come forward individually, make a reverence, and say to the priest:

Forgive me, a sinner.

to which the priest responds:

May God forgive you.

During the exchange of mutual forgiveness, the cantors and choir sing the Paschal Canon quietly.

When the mutual exchange is finished:

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

Response: 
A - men.

The Order of Vespers for the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)

*Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
February 2018*

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

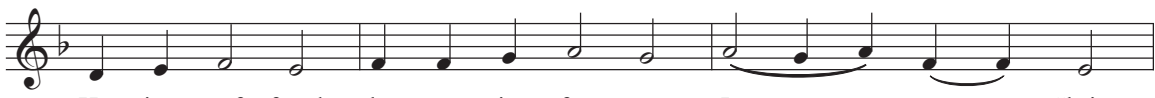
Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever *and* forever. Amen.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us
through the prayers of his most pure Mother,
through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, bodiless powers;
through the prayers of the holy (*Name*), (*to whom this church is dedicated*),
and (*Name*), (*whose feast we celebrate today*)
and through the prayers of all the saints;
for he is gracious and loves us all.


Response: 
A - - - - - men.

*Then, if it be the custom, the clergy and faithful sing the following hymn three times,
making a prostration each time.*

Having suffered (Preterpivyj)



Hav - ing suf - fered the pas - sion for us, Je - - - sus Christ,
Pre - ter - pi - vyj za nas stras - ti, I - su - se Christ - e,



Son of God, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.
Sy - ne Bo - zij, po - mi - luj, po - mi - luj, po - mi - luj nas.

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 forever. **Amen**.

More honorable than the Cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
you, truly the Theotokos, we **magnify**.

In the name of the Lord,
Father, give **the** blessing.

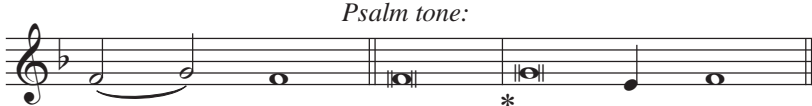
Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers,
O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: 
A - men.

The Prayer of St. Ephrem

All: Lord and Master of my life,
spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,
lust for power, and idle chatter. (*Prostration*)
Instead, bestow on me, your servant,
the spirit of integrity, humility,
patience, and love. (*Prostration*)
Yes, O Lord and King,
let me see my own sins
and not judge my brothers and sisters;
for you are blessed forever and ever. **Amen**. (*Prostration*)

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

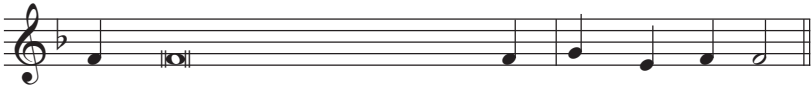
Glory to you, our God,
glory **to** you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us,
cleanse us from all stain,
and save our souls, O **gracious** One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy **on** us. (*3 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. **Amen**.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for **your** name's sake.

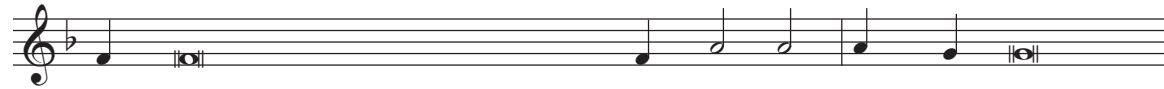

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. **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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,



have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(sung twice)*


Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.




Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.


Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Lord my God, how great *you* are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in *a* robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
Above the rains you build *your* dwelling.



De - spise not our pray'rs in our need, but de - liv - er us from dan - gers,



for you a - lone are pure and bless - ed.

All: Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*



Give the bless - ing.

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world and safeguard this city (*or* this holy monastery), grant those who have gone before us a dwelling place among the righteous, accept us in repentance and have mercy, for you are good and love us all.

Response: 
A - men.

Pray for us, O ho - ly apos-tles and all you saints, that we be delivered from

dan-ger and af - flic - tion, for we have you as our fervent interces-sors be - fore

the Sav - ior.

Prostration

podoben: Pod tvoju milost' (1)

Be - neath your com - pas - sion we take ref - - - uge, O Vir - gin

The - o - to - kos. De - spise not our pray'ts, our pray'ts in our need,

but de - liv - er us from dan - gers, for you a - lone are pure, for you

a - lone are pure, for you a - lone are pure and bless - ed.

or

podoben: Pod tvoju milost' (2)

Be - neath your compas-sion we take ref - uge, O Vir-gin The-o - to - kos.

You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of *the* wind;

you make your angels spirits
and your ministers a flaming fire.
You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age *to* age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than *the* mountains.
At your threat they took to flight;
at the voice of your thunder *they* fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down
to the place which you had *appointed*.
You set limits they might not pass
lest they return to cover *the* earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between *the* hills.
They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
the wild asses quench *their* thirst.

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing *their* song.
From your dwelling they water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of *your* gift.

You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve *man's* needs,
that he may bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer *man's* heart;

oil, to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen *man's* heart.
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,
the cedars he planted *on* Lebanon;

there the birds build their nests;
 on the treetop the stork has *her* home.
 The goats find a home on the mountains
 and rabbits hide in *the* rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months;
 the sun knows the time for *its* setting.
 When you spread the darkness it is night
 and all the beasts of the forest *creep* forth.

The young lions roar for their prey
 and ask their food *from* God.
 At the rising of the sun they steal away
 and go to rest in *their* dens.

Man goes out to his work,
 to labor till *evening* falls.
 How many are your works, O Lord!
 In wisdom you have made them all.
 The earth is full of *your* riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,
 with its moving swarms past counting,
 living things great *and* small.
 The ships are moving there,
 and the monsters you made *to* play with.

All of these look to you
 to give them their food in *due* season.
 You give it, they gather it up;
 you open your hand, they have *their* fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
 you take back your spirit, they die,
 returning to the dust from which *they* came.
 You send forth your spirit, they are created;
 and you renew the face of *the* earth.

Dismissal for Fasts

The following Troparia are sung in Tone 4:

Re-joyce, O Vir-gin The - o - to - kos! Mar - y full of grace, the Lord is

with you! Bless - ed are you a-mong wo - men, and bless - ed is the

fruit of your womb. For you gave birth to Christ, the Sav - ior and Re-deem-er

of our souls. *Prostration*

Cantor: Glory...

O Bap - tiz - er of Christ, re - mem - ber us all, that we be delivered from

our trans - gres - sions; for you have been giv - en grace to in - ter - cede on

our be - half. *Prostration*

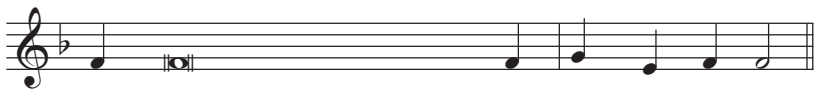
Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy **on** us. (*3 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions,
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for **your** names' sake.



Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. 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 glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



A - men.

May the glory of the Lord last forever!
May the Lord rejoice in **his** works!
He looks on the earth and it trembles;
the mountains send forth smoke at **his** touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while **I** live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in **the** Lord.

Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.
Bless the Lord, O **my** soul.
And again:

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for **its** setting.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made **them** all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Three times, each with a reverence:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

At the last, with melody:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

The faithful SIT.

Litany of Peace

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

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)


Deacon: For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

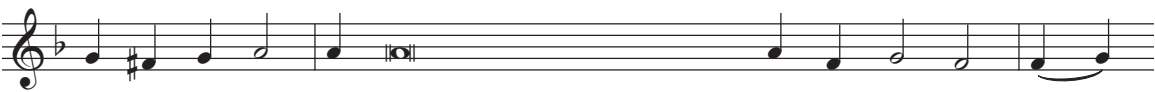
Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

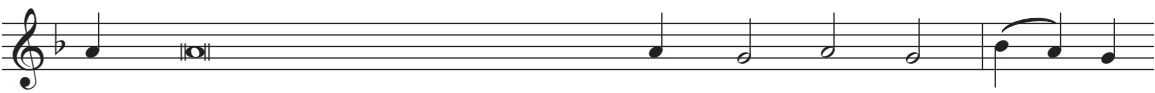

in - ter - ces - sions, send up - on us great mer - cy.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...


Theotokion


The choir of angels glorifies you, O most pure Vir - gin, for you have given


birth to our God, co - eternal with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, through


whom the angelic armies were brought forth from noth - ing - ness. Be - seech


him to send the light of sal - va - tion up - on the souls who profess


the true faith prais - ing you as the Moth - er of our God.

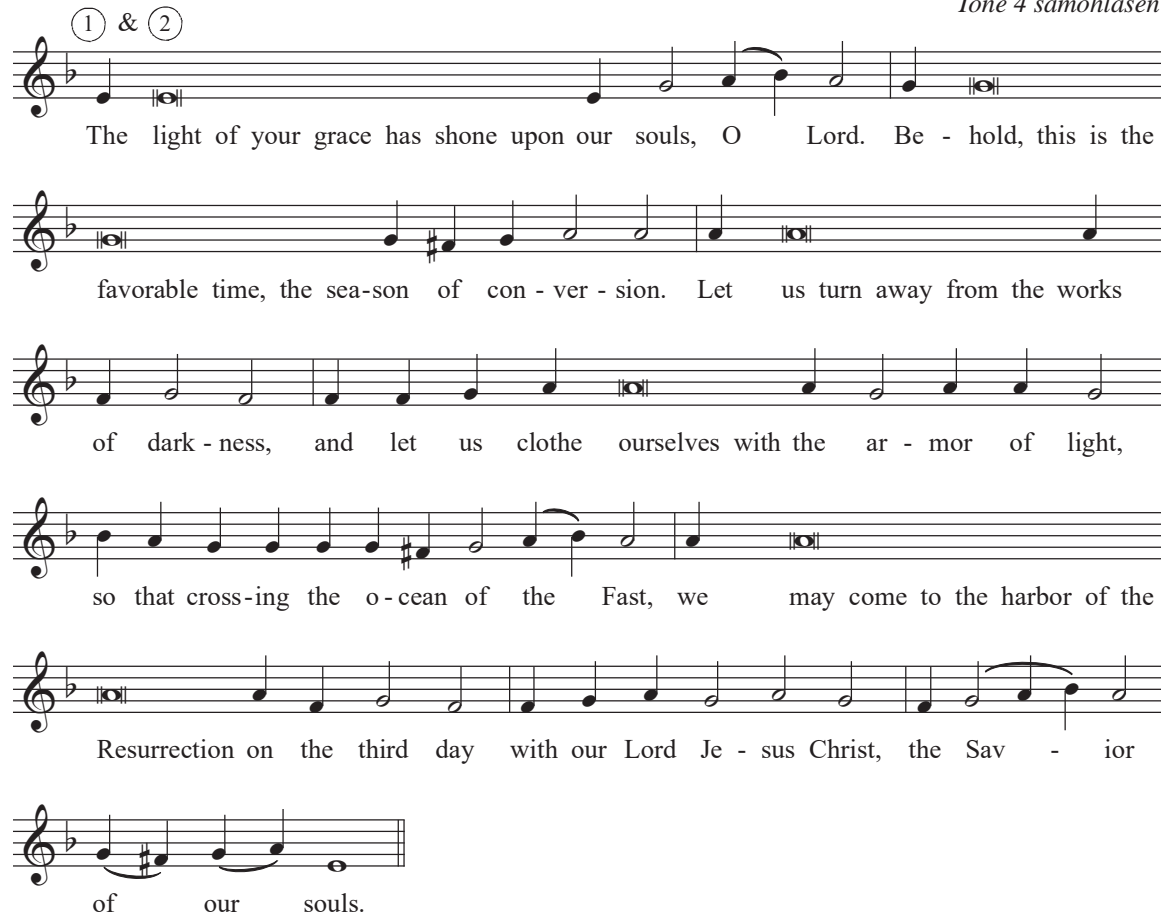
Prayer of St. Simeon

Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord,
in peace according to *your* word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared before the face of *all* peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people *Israel*.

Aposticha

Tone 4 samohlasen

① & ②

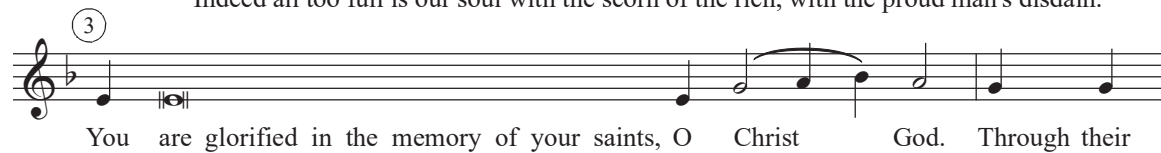


The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Be - hold, this is the favorable time, the sea-son of con - ver - sion. Let us turn away from the works of dark - ness, and let us clothe ourselves with the ar - mor of light, so that cross-ing the o - cean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the Resurrection on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior of our souls.

Cantor: To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens;
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords.
Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy.
Repeat "The light of your grace..."

Cantor: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain.

③



You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God. Through their

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)


Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

The faithful STAND.

Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Tone 2 samohlasen

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re-ceive the voice of my pray'r when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r

as-cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands

like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - - - - men.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spir - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love mankind. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - - - - men.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgement seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

The faithful STAND.

Priest: Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way *un*harmed.

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 2 podoben: Jehda ot dreva

En - ter - ing in - to the a - re - na of the ho - ly Fast, let us
make ev - 'ry ef - fort to hum - ble our flesh by ab - sti-nence;
in prayer and with tears let us seek the Lord our Sav - ior, and, that
we might turn a - way from our e - vil deeds, let us say to him:
We have sinned a - gainst you, O Christ our King; save us
as you saved the Nin - e - vites of old, and in your good - ness, grant us a share

Blessed are you, O Holy One, (reverence)
enlighten me with your *commandments*.
Lord, your mercy is forever;
despise not the work of *your* hands.
To you is due praise, to you is due a hymn;
to you is glory due.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

The faithful SIT.

Litany of Supplication

The faithful's responses in the following litany may use the Lenten tone (given here) or the customary responses as at the Divine Liturgy

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response:

1. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:

2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:

3. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:

4. Grant this, O Lord.

Prokeimenon for Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday

Do not hide your face from your ser - - - vant; an-swer
me quick - - - ly for I am in dis - tress.
Come close to my soul and re - deem me.

The verses of the Prokeimenon are sung either by the Deacon or by the Priest:

Verse: Let your saving help, O God, protect me.

Verse: See, you lowly ones, and be glad.

Verse: You who seek God, may your hearts be merry.

If a sermon is given at this point, the faithful SIT, then STAND for the Hymn of Glorification.

Hymn of Glorification

Make us worthy, O Lord,
to be kept sinless *this* evening.
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Amen
May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
because we have placed our hope *in* you.
Blessed are you, O Lord, (*reverence*)
teach me your *commandments*.
Blessed are you, O Master, (*reverence*)
make me understand your *commandments*.

in the King-dom of Heav - en.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him, all you peoples!

When I see my deeds that de - serve such pun - ish-ment, I
am with - out hope, O Lord, for I have dis - o - beyed
your ho - ly com - mand - ments, and I have led a fool - ish life.
There-fore I be - seech you: Pur - i - fy me in the wa - ters
of re - pent-ance by fast - ing and prayer, O Sav - ior full of
good-ness; do not re - ject me, O Ben-e - fac - tor of the u - ni - verse.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

Let us be - gin the time of this bright Fast giv - ing our-selves

to spir - it - ual strug - gle. Let us san - cti - fy our souls and
 pur - i - fy our flesh. Let us not on - ly fast from food; let us al - so
 ab - stain from ev - 'ry pas - sion and cul - ti - vate spir - it - ual vir - tues.
 And let us faith - ful - ly per - se - vere in this, so that we
 may be worthy to see the holy Pas - sion of Christ our God and the joy of his
 ho - ly Res - ur - rec - tion.

The faithful STAND.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 4 samohlasen

With the staff of your in - ter - ces - - - sion, O pure The - o - to - kos,
 drive from my wretched soul the bes - tial pas - sions, guid - ing me peace - ful - ly toward
 life; and add me to the ho - ly flock of thy cho - sen sheep.

While the theotokion is sung, the clergy make an entrance with the censer, coming before the holy doors as the deacon exclaims:

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Hymn of the Evening

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
 the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
 reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
 a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the
 Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

Evening Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!