The Order of Matins

The Feast of the Holy, Glorious, and Illustrious
Prime Apostles Peter and Paul

June 29

Revised June 2009
The priest, vested in epitrachilion and phelonion, incenses the Holy Table, Icon Screen, the whole church, and the people. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The priest then stands before the Holy Doors, holding the censer. The deacon stands to his right and says:

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

While making the sign of the cross with the censer, the priest says:

**Priest:** Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**

Glory to God in the highest, *
and to people on earth, peace and **good** will. (three times.)

O Lord, open my lips *
and my mouth will declare **your** praise. (twice)

*The Lector, holding a lighted candle and standing in the midst of the church, reads Psalm 3. During this psalm, the priest, having removed his phelonion, says the Prayers of Light of Matins in front of the Royal Doors. The deacon returns to the altar.*

**Psalm 3**

How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!

How many are saying about me:
"There is no help for him in God."

But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.

I cry aloud to you, Lord.
He answers from his holy mountain.

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.
Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
you who strike my foes on the mouth,
you who break the teeth of the wicked!

O Lord of salvation,
bless your people!

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

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

And then three times, with a bow each time:

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

The third time, with melody:

The deacon comes to the ambon to say the Litany of Peace. He and the priest bow to each other, and the priest returns to the altar. If there is no deacon, the priest says this litany before the Holy Doors, remaining outside the altar.

Litany of Peace

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

Response:

1. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response:

2. Lord, have mercy.
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 bishop, (Name), whom God loves, 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)

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.

Priest: We thank you, Lord, our God, for you have wakened us from our sleep, and have filled our lips with praise that we might worship you and call upon your holy name. We beg of your compassion that you have always shown towards us, hear us now and send help to those who stand before your holy glory, awaiting your abundant mercy. O Lord, grant that those who serve you in fear and love may praise your ineffable goodness. For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

"The Lord is God" is intoned recto-tono by the deacon, and then sung by the faithful in the Tone of the Troparion that follows it. The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses (also recto-tono); the faithful repeat "The Lord is God" after each verse. If there is no deacon, the priest remains at the Royal Doors and chants the verses.
The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.

verse: They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.

verse: I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

verse: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Troparion of the Apostles Peter and Paul - Tone 4 (sung twice)

Lead-ers of the apostles, teach-ers of the world, inter-cede with the Lord of all to grant peace to the world and abun-dant mer-cy to our souls.

Cantor: Glory…now and ever…

Festal Theotokion - Tone 4

The mys-ter-y hid-den from all a-ges and un-known to the an-gels has been made known to those on earth through you, O The-o-to-kos.
God has taken flesh in a union without confusion, and willingly accepted
the Cross for us; whereby he raised the first-formed Adam and saved
our souls from death.

First Psalter Reading

The deacon returns to the altar. Psalm 18 is read by the lector

Psalm 18

The heavens proclaim the glory of God,
and the firmament shows forth the work of your hands.
Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard
yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun;
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favor in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

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

*And then three times, with a bow each time:*

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

*Third time, with melody:*

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

*The deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon.*
Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

1. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response:

2. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Priest: For yours are the might and the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

Amen.

Sessional Hymn 1

Tone 8 podoben: Premudrosti

Having put aside fishing in the deep, you received from the Father himself the revelation of the Incarnation of the Word. Thus you confidently
cried out to your Creator: I know that you are the Son of God, consubstantial with him. Therefore you were truly revealed as the rock of faith and a trustee of the keys of grace. Intercede, therefore, O apostle Peter, with Christ our God, to grant forgiveness of our sins to those who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.

Cantor: Glory...

We worthily exalt the all-praiseworthy Peter and Paul, the defender of the rock of the Church, and the net of the world.

They have the keys of heaven from Christ, because they have illumined the world in the belief of the Trinity. Glory to
him who glo ri fied you! Glo - ry to him who strength - ened you.

Glo - ry to him who gave you gifts for e - ter nal life.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O most ho ly Vir - gin, heaven-ly are your hands with which you car ried
the Cre a - tor who be-came in - car nate through his good ness.

Now ex tend your hands and be seech him to de liv er from
temp ta tion, passion, and dan ger all those who lov ing - ly praise you and
cry out: Glo - ry to him who dwelled in you! Glo - ry to him who came forth
from you! Glo - ry to him who deliv ered us through your birth-giv ing.
The lector reads Psalm 19.

Psalm 19  May the Lord answer in time of trial;  
may the name of Jacob's God protect you.  

May he send you help from his shrine  
and give you support from Zion.  
May he remember all your offerings  
and receive your sacrifice with favor.  

May he give you your heart's desire  
and fulfill every one of your plans.  
May we ring out our joy at your victory  
and rejoice in the name of our God.  
(At May the Lord grant all your prayers.)  

I am sure now that the Lord  
will give victory to his anointed,  
will reply from his holy heaven  
with the mighty victory of his hand.  

Some trust in chariots or horses,  
but we in the name of the Lord.  
They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall hold and stand firm.  

Give victory to the king, O Lord,  
give answer on the day we call.  

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

And then three times, with a bow each time:  

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!
The third time, with melody:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Glory to you, O God.

The deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:

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

**Response:**

1. Lord, have mercy.

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

**Response:**

2. Lord, have mercy.

**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.

**Priest:** For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**

A - men.
Having received from Christ a calling from heav'n, you were revealed as a preacher of the Light. By your teachings, you enlightened the good will of all because you uprooted the servitude to the written law. You illuminated the faithful in their knowledge of the Spirit. Because of this, you ascended worthily to the third heaven and attained Paradise. Therefore, O apostle Paul, intercede with Christ our God to grant forgiveness of sins to those who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

As the stars brighten the whole earth, you give light by your shining rays,
the teachings of your holy preaching, O heavenly mystics and apostles of the Lord.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

Let us, the faithful, praise the Theotokos, who is the fervent intercessor of those in trouble. She is our help and our reconciler with God.

Third Psalter Reading

Before the Polyeleos, the priest vests in the phelonion. The deacon opens the Holy Doors, and, when the Polyeleos is sung, the priest incenses the Holy Table, the icon screen, the church, and the people, proceeded by the deacon carrying a lighted candle.

Polyeleos (Psalms 134 and 135)

Praise the name of the Lord, alleluia, praise him, serv-ants of the Lord, serv-ants of the Lord.
Al le lu ia, al le lu ia, al le lu ia.

Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God,

the house of our God.

Refrain

Lord, your name stands forever, unforgotten from age to age,

from age to age.

Refrain

From Zion may the Lord be blessed, he who dwells in Jerusalem,

in Jerusalem.

Refrain

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
Refrain

alleluia, for his love endures forever. Alleluia, alleluia.

Refrain

who fixed the earth firmly on the seas,

Refrain

and he snatched us away from our foes,

Refrain

To the God of heaven, give thanks,

Exaltation

We exalt you, O Peter and Paul, Apostles of Christ. By your teachings,

you have enlightened the whole world and have drawn the ends of the

earth near to Christ.
verse: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.

verse: For the kingdom is the Lord's; he is ruler of the nations.

verse: Through all the world their voice resounds; their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

verse: God stands in the divine assembly; in the midst of the gods he gives judgment.

verse: Glory...now and ever...

Three times

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Glory to you, O God!

Bulgarian Verse

Let us, the citizens of the higher, the heavenly Jerusalem,

praise the pre-eminent Peter and Paul, the disciples of Christ.

Sessional Hymn 3

Let us praise Peter and the most wise Paul, great lamp-stands and lights,
who were revealed as the first of the disciples. They glistered by means of the fire of the divine Spirit and burned up the whole cloud of deceit. Therefore, they worthily showed themselves to be soldiers of the kingdom on high and sharers of the throne of grace. We, therefore, cry out to them: O Apostles of Christ our God, obtain remission of the sins of those who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.

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

Theotokion

O Virgin, most honored in song, I am defiled because of iniquity, for I have entertained evil thoughts in my mind. O immaculate bride of the Trinity, and inviolate mother of the Deliverer, and the
receptacle of the Comforter, hasten to deliver me from these things and from doing evil. Make me a bright abode of good deeds, of light-bearing and incorruptible things. Cast away the darkness of passion, and by your pray'rs make me worthy to partake of the Most High and of the Light which knows no evening.

Gradual Hymns

1

Ev er since the days of my youth, many passions have fiercely waged a battle against me; but has ten to my rescue and save me, O my Savior.

2

All of you that hate Zion shall be put to
shame by the Lord: all of you shall be withered up,
as the grass is by the fire. Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit
gives his life to every soul; it is exalted in purity;
it is illumined by the one God in three Persons
in a sacred mystery. Now and ever and
for ever. Amen. The Holy Spirit
causes streams of grace which are flowing for us all,
and they water the whole creation that we
Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4

Through all the world their voice resounds; their message reaches to

the ends of the earth.

The deacon chants the verse.

verse: The heavens proclaim the glory of God,
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.

Preparation for the Gospel

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 1. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For you are holy, O our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
Let Everything That Lives and That Breathes

Deacon: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord!

Response: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

The deacon chants the verse.

verse: Praise God in his holy place; praise him in his mighty heavens.

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

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

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit, to your spirit.

Priest: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist John.
Response:

Glo - r y to you, glo - r y to you, O Lord, O Lord.

The priest reads the Gospel, even when a deacon is present.

Priest:       John 21: 15-25

Response:

Glo - r y to you, glo - r y to you, O Lord, O Lord.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. *
In your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt *
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; *
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned; *
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence *
and be without reproach when you judge,

O see, in guilt I was born, *
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; *
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean; *
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, *
that the bones you have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away your face *
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God; *
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, *
or deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; *
with a spirit of fervor sustain me.

that I may teach transgressors your ways *
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper, *
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips *
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, *
burnt offering from me you would refuse,

my sacrifice, a contrite spirit, *
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion: *
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed, *
then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory…

**Tone 6 samohlasen**

Through the intercession of the prime apostles, Peter and Paul,
O Merciful One, cleanse us of our many sins.

Through the intercession of the Theotokos, O Merciful One,
cleanse us of our many sins.

Cantor: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

With hymns of praise let us venerate Peter, the rock of faith, and Paul, a true teacher and mystic of Christ. Both were preachers of true piety and very brilliant stars of the Church, because they sowed the true word in the hearts of the faithful, bestowing fruitfulness to all.

Now they entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.
The deacon, standing before the icon of the Lord, says

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:  

1. Lord, have mercy.

The priest, standing before the Holy Doors, says

Priest: O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, O Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath.

Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
Today, with inspired hymns let us sing fitting praises to the leader of the Apostles, who was among the first called by Christ. *Refrain*

O blessed Apostle Peter, the Lord God foreknew you from all eternity, and he chose you to preside as the first among equals over his Church. *Refrain*

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father, inspired you to confess the divinity of Christ as you acknowledged him to be the true Son of God Most High. *Refrain*

Let us sing of the Mother of our God, as the ineffable divine chariot and holy mountain, who remained a virgin after giving birth. *Refrain*
The staff which Moses cut divided the element which cannot be divided; and the sun shone upon soil it had never seen before; the waters swallowed up the treacherous enemy; Israel crossed over the impassible sea, with the hymn, "Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant!"

O blessed Apostle Paul, as Christ had called things out of nothingness into being, so in his divine knowledge did he choose you from your mother's womb to carry his name, which is above all names, to the Gentiles, for he is gloriously triumphant. Refrain

Announcing to you the disappearance of error and the future enlightenment in the Faith, Christ who had been radiant in light on the mountain, blinded your bodily eyes; but he allowed your soul to see the Trinity, for he is gloriously triumphant! Refrain

Circumcised on the eighth day, filled with zeal for the traditions of your fathers, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, as regards the Law, a Pharisee; but you counted all of that as dung that you might gain Christ, for he is gloriously triumphant!

Holy Mother of the Most High God, being of a royal tribe, you conceived the God who rules over all, O Lady, and ineffably gave birth to him in the flesh; preserve me from danger as I sing to your Son, for he is gloriously triumphant!

Katavasia

I will o-pen my mouth; it will be filled by the Ho-ly Spir-it, and I
will offer my praise to the Queen Mother. I will celebrate in joy;
in my rejoicing I will sing of these wonders.

Ode 3
Irmos

Not in wisdom nor in strength nor in riches do we boast,

but in you, O Wisdom in Person of God the Father, O Christ: for none is holy save you, O Lover of all of us.

Refrain

O apostle Peter, the sweet lips of Christ our God declared you blessed, and he designated you to be the steward of his Kingdom; thus we sing to you. Refrain

Upon the rock of your confession of faith in God, the Lord Jesus has placed the unshakable foundation of his Church in which we glorify you. Refrain

Although he has a body, Peter surpasses the ranks of the angels, for Christ said that he would be seated as a judge with him at his glorious Second Coming. Refrain

O pure Virgin who bore God in the flesh, strengthen me who am tossed about by the assault of my passions; for there is no other helper but you. Refrain
You are the strength of those who run to you, O Lord; you are the Light of those in darkness, and my spirit sings your praise!

**Refrain**

\[
\text{Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.}
\]

As a foundation for the souls of the faithful, you have given the Pearl of Great Price, the Cornerstone, the Lord and Savior. **Refrain**

Ceaselessly bearing the death of Jesus in your body, you have been made worthy to share also in his true Life. **Refrain**

O blessed Paul, intercede that the splendor of the believers be built upon the foundation of your virtues.

**Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever--**

and for ever. A-men.

O pure Virgin, as you foretold, all generations call you blessed for in you they have found salvation.

**Katavasia**

O The o - to - kos, life-giving source of blessings, grant strength to those united in faith who sing hymns of praise to you.
In your glory, grant them the crowns of victory.

O Apostle Paul, was there a prison that did not see you chained, or a church that did not hear you preach? Damascus glories for having been a witness when you were thrown to the ground by a heavenly light, Rome exults in pride for possessing your blood.

Tarsus, your birthplace, overflows with joy, for it reveres your swaddling clothes. Together with Peter, the Rock of Faith, O Paul, glory of the world, come forth from Rome and strengthen us!
After the Third Ode, the deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:

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

Response: 

1. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: 

2. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Priest: For you are our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 

Amen.
This is our God, who took flesh of the Virgin and deified our nature. We cry out aloud and sing to him: Glory to your power, O Lord!

Refrain

As Christ promised, he made you a divine fisher of men, and he placed in your hands the helm of his Church. Refrain

O Peter, the life-giving Lord Jesus granted you the power to loose and to bind; at your prayer, may he grant me pardon. Refrain

O Peter, pray earnestly that the Kingdom of Christ be opened to those who honor your divine memory with faith. Refrain

O Lady worthy of our hymns, divine Mother of God, cleanse my thoughts through your intercessions and make me fruitful, O Mother of the God of all. Refrain

You tread the sea with the Apostles as your steeds, O Lord, taking their reins in your hands; and your descent has become salvation for the faithful who sing, "Glory to your power, O Lord!"

Refrain

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.
Like a ravaging lion, Saul once came down upon the Church of Christ; but, seized by the voice of the Lamb of God, he became a shepherd of the flock which he had once persecuted.  

Refrain

He who was to enlighten the universe became blind; Ananias was sent to him to give him sight in body and soul, O God, who revealed him to be a chosen vessel of election.  

Refrain

Damascus was rightly glorified because of Paul: for from it, as once from Paradise, a great river of divine waters has gone forth and has refreshed the whole earth with the knowledge of God.

As the Virgin Mother said, the Lord has put down the mighty from their seat and has filled the hungry with good things; and they sing in faith, "Glory to your power, O Lord!"

Katavasia

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

and for ever. Amen.

Je - sus the true God, who sits in glory upon the di - vine throne,

now ap - pears rid - ing on a swift cloud; and with his pure hand

he saves those who cry: Glory to your pow - er, O Christ!
O you who have purchased us as a chosen people by your blood,—
grant us your peace, O Lord, preserving your flock in unity of mind.

Refrain

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

Having acquired intimacy with God through love, the unlettered fisherman was filled with his favor to the point of working wondrous miracles through divine grace. *Refrain*

For love of you, O Lord, your divine Apostle possessed neither gold nor silver, but only his virtues as his treasure; and he was enriched with the power to work miracles. *Refrain*

Your powerful word restored the legs and steps of the lame man: for through the divine Spirit, you worked wondrous miracles. *Refrain*

O pure Virgin, in uniting himself to the flesh which was taken from you, God became man in the Person of the Son, but he remained unchanged in his bodiless nature. *Refrain*

Enlighten us, O Lord, by your commandments; lift your mighty arm, O Lover of us all, and grant us your peace.

Refrain

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.
You chose true glory, O holy Apostle Paul, by ceaselessly carrying the Cross of Christ our King as your only sign of victory. *Refrain*

For you, to live is Christ; and to die is great profit. By love, you have been crucified with him who was crucified for us, O most glorious Paul. *Refrain*

In truth, you rejoice always in the Lord, O honorable Paul, who have put off the body and gone away to Christ our God, the Giver of Life. *Refrain*

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ev-er


Hail, true treasure of virginity! Through you, our first father was delivered from the curse, and our first mother was called back to Paradise.

All na-tions mar-velled at your di-vine glo-ry, for you,

O Virgin who have not known wed-lock, car-ried with-in your womb the

God of all, the eternal Son to whom you gave birth; he grants sal-va-tion
to all who sing your prais-es.
O Christ, Jonah who spent three days in the whale prefigured you, the immortal One, who having died willingly, did spend three days in the heart of the earth.

Refrain

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

O Christ, as you once stretched out your hand and saved Peter walking on the waters, bear me up as I sink in a storm of temptations. Refrain

O Peter, like the merchant in the Gospel, you abandoned all for the sake of true goods, and you obtained Christ, the Pearl of great price. Refrain

O Peter, you brought about an end to those who foolishly tried to tempt the All-Holy Spirit, whose Divinity you were the first to make clear, O blessed Apostle. Refrain

For us, you have brought into the world in the flesh the Word of God, who transcends all being; therefore, with our lips and heart, we proclaim your divine maternity. Refrain

I pour out my prayer before the Lord and tell Him of all my affliction. For my soul is filled with evils, and my life has drawn near to the grave. Like Jonah, I beseech you, O God: "Snatch my life from corruption!"

Refrain

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.
You renounced all pleasures here below, being rapt with love for Christ, your Master; and in your desire that all come to salvation, you were willing to be lost yourself, separated from him, O blessed Paul, intercede for us all.

O blessed apostle Paul, Christ rightly granted you citizenship in heaven, for you had no desire for this passing city here below, O faithful servant of the Lord and steward of his divine Mysteries.

As a noble imitator of his Master, holy Paul put on Christ and became all things to all men in order to win and save all peoples. He truly caught the very ends of the earth in his nets for Christ.

The Lord regarded you when he was renewing my being; for he is mighty and has done great things, as you said, O pure Theotokos. In his love for mankind, he has saved me from the pit through you.

Katavasia

Come, all you faithful, and clap your hands, as we celebrate this holy and solemn feast of the Mother of God. Glorify him who was born of her.

After the Sixth Ode, the deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:
Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 1. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: 2. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Priest: For you are the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, and we give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Kontakion

Lord, you have received your steadfast and inspired preachers,

the foremost of your apostles, into the enjoyment of
your good gifts and repose. You preferred their sufferings and death above any sacrifice, for you alone know the secrets of the heart.

**Ikos**

O Savior, grant eloquence to my tongue and open my mouth: fill it with your Spirit and grant my heart compunction that I may be the first to follow the things that I say and do the things that I teach; for you have said that whoever does that which he teaches is truly great among me. For if I do not do what I say, then I am only a sounding brass. Therefore, teach me what to speak and grant that I may do what is right,

for you alone know the secrets of the heart.

**Ode 7**

Tone 4

O unoriginate Word, O only begotten Son,

who existed in the beginning with the Father and the Spirit:

blessed are you and supremely exalted,

O God of our fathers.
Refrain

Having learned through divine Providence how to imitate the compassion of Christ, O Peter, you were able to endure the storm of your denial before his Passion. Refrain

Christ called you first and loved you greatly; risen from the tomb, he first appeared to you as the illustrious prince of the Apostles. Refrain

By questioning you three times, the Master strengthened your love for him, thus healing your triple denial before his Passion. Refrain

As witness to your love for Christ, O Peter, you took the Word who knows all things, being eternal; and he entrusted to your care his beloved flock. Refrain

You conceived in the flesh God the Word, who shone forth from the Father from before all ages; we call you blessed, as the Mother of the God of all! Refrain

On the plain of Dura of old, the tyrant enkindled a furnace to punish those faithful to the Lord; but in it, the three young men sang hymns to the one true God, triply praising him and saying, "Blessed are you, O God of our Fathers!"

Refrain

O Christ, he whom you called last has become the crown and perfection of your apostles, for he surpassed them all in his zeal. Together with him, the people of the Church sing out to you: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!" Refrain

Although Paul, who ended as a captive, had once persecuted your Church, his former impudence was surpassed by his zeal in his last days; for he gathered together the nations to sing to Christ, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!" Refrain

Leaving Jerusalem, you preached the Gospel to all; then you went around the whole world, O holy Paul, teaching even to the boundaries of Illyricum and crying aloud: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"
Taken up in ecstasy, you reached the third heaven, O blessed one, and heard ineffable words, as you cried aloud, "Glory to the Most High Father, and to the Son, his image, enthroned with him, and to the Spirit of God who searches all depths!"

The three youths courageously walked about in the flaming furnace, preferring to worship the Creator rather than created things, and they sang out in joy:

Katavasia

Christ our God descended upon you, O Virgin, like dew on the fleece; and he came forth from you bearing our flesh, uniting that which had been separated formerly, and granting peace on earth as in heaven, as the blessed God of our Fathers.
O Christ, who did bear all things by your unapproachable power, you sprinkled with dew the holy youths in the flame as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

O Peter, the Master foretold that they would stretch out your hands and fasten you to a cross; he commanded you to follow him as you sang, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!" Refrain

By a word of grace, you raised up Aeneas, who had been paralyzed; and by a miracle you made Tabitha rise from the dead; then both cried aloud, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!" Refrain

O Christ, you showed Peter that the nations were to be cleansed by the light of the Holy Spirit; cleanse my heart as I sing aloud, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!" Refrain

By One of the Divine Persons dwelling in your womb, God has been totally united to myself, O Virgin; and we all magnify you as the Theotokos. Refrain
He who was glorified on the holy mountain and revealed to Moses in the burning bush the mystery of the ever-Virgin Mother, is the Lord: sing to him and exalt him throughout all the ages!

Captured by your love, Paul underwent a wondrous change; for it was no longer he who lived, O God of compassion, but you lived within him throughout all the ages. Refrain

You betrothed the Church, as a Bride presented to Christ, her Bridegroom, O Apostle Paul, and you led her to the wedding banquet; therefore she glorifies you throughout all the ages.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord; singing and highly exalting him above all for ever ever.
The three youths in the furnace were saved by the offspring of the Theotokos. He who was foretold has been born on earth, and he joins together a creation to sing: All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and praise him above all forever.

Canticle of the Theotokos

At the end of the Eighth Ode, the deacon (or priest if there is no deacon) comes with the censer before the icon of the Theotokos on the icon screen. Incensing her icon, he intones:

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns!

Then he incenses the whole Church as usual, beginning with the Holy Table, while the faithful sing the Canticle of the Theotokos.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
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!

Because he has looked upon the humility of his servant, from this day forward all generations shall call me blessed

Because he who is mighty has done great things to me, and holy is his name, and his love is from generation to generation to those who fear him.

He has shown might in his arm; he has scattered the proud in the conceit of
Refrain

He has put down the mighty from their seat and exalted the humble; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

Refrain

He has received Israel his servant, being mindful of his love, as he spoke to our fathers:

to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Refrain

We exalt you in hymns, O most glorious Bride, and all holy

Theotokos, for you have given birth to

the Creator of all things visible and invisible.
Refrain

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

Your very flesh healed the sick of their illnesses, O holy Peter, manifesting your great power; thus we magnify you. *Refrain*

By his prodigies, contrary to God, Simon Magus exalted himself to the heavens; but by the ineffable power of God, O holy Peter, you have put him down; and we call you blessed. *Refrain*

By your intercessions, O holy Apostle, obtain remission of sins, enlightenment of heart and joy in spirit for those who celebrate your sacred memory. *Refrain*

O Virgin who conceived our God, you are truly called Theotokos; as is right, we the faithful glorify you with one accord, and in hymns we magnify you. *Refrain*

You surpassed our limited nature in conceiving the Lord, your Creator, and you became the gateway to salvation for the world; thus, O Theotokos, with ceaseless hymns we magnify you!

Refrain

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

O holy Paul, we bow down and honor the chains that you bore, condemned as an evildoer for the sake of Christ; and we venerate on your body the wounds you bear as a wondrous conqueror. *Refrain*

Having lifted your anchor to pass to Him who cherished above all things, you dwell with him now as his servant. We entreat you to draw us to yourself by your prayers. *Refrain*

No longer in dark sayings nor as in a mirror do you see Christ, but now he is seen face to face, revealing to you a perfect understanding of his Divinity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ev-er

You received the bodiless Word when he willed to recreate my nature; you gave birth to him in the flesh, O Virgin; wherefore, O Theotokos, we ceaselessly magnify you.

Katavasia

May ev - 'ry child of the earth ex - ult in spir - it and hold a - loft

the burn - ing lamp; may the an - gels in heav - en praise with joy the ho - ly

feast of the Mother of God and sing to her: Re - joice, O blessed and ev - er - Vir - gin,

ho - ly The - o - to - kos.

After the Ninth Ode, the deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray 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 mercy.

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.

Priest: O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under your will, we pray and beg you: accept these hymns of praise which we offer to you according to our ability together with all your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of your goodness, for before you all beings in the heavens, or on earth and under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives praise to your glory beyond reach, for you are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Hymns of Light

Podoben: Ženy uslyšite

Come, let us exalt the apostles Peter and Paul, those divine leaders of the apostles and lights of the
uni-verse, the preach-ers of the faith, and two
trumpets of the Word of God, the inter-preters
of teach-ings, pil-lars of the Church,
and those who re-fute er-ror.

Cantor: Glory… All repeat "Come, let us extol..."

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

The great and a-maz-ing mys-te-ry of your birth-giv-ing,
O Vir-gin The-o-to-kos, fa-v-ored of God, was
preached by the proph-ets, taught by
the a-pos-tles, and con-fessed by the mar-tyrs.
It is praised by the angels and worshiped by human beings

Psalms of Praise

Tone 4 samohlasen

Let ev'rything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the heights. To you is due a hymn, O God. Praise him, all his an - gels, praise him, all his host.

To you is due a hymn, O God.

Praise him, sun and moon, *
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens *
and the waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
He commanded; they were made.
He fixed them forever, *
gave a law which shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, *
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist, *
stormy winds that obey his word;
all mountains and hills, *
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame, *
  reptiles and birds on the wing;
all earth's kings and peoples,
  earth's princes and rulers.
young men and maidens, *
  old men together with children.
Let them praise the name of the Lord *
  for he alone is exalted.
The splendor of his name *
  reaches beyond heaven and earth.
He exalts the strength of his people, *
  he is the praise of all his saints,
of the children of Israel, *
  of the people to whom he comes close.

Psalm 149

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
  his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, *
  let Zion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing *
  and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
  He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
  shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
  and a two-edged sword in their hand,
to deal out vengeance to the nations *
  and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains *
  and their nobles in fetters of iron.
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained: *
  this honor is for all his faithful.

Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy place, *
  praise him in his mighty heavens.

Cantor: (on 4)
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
  praise his surpassing greatness.
When the Incarnate Savior asked the twelve disciples:

Who do people say that I am? Peter, the elect of the Apostles, having received grace from heaven, proclaimed you clearly, speaking of your Godhead, saying: You are Christ, the Son of the living God. Therefore, it is proper to bless him, for he received the revelation from above.

In deed, he justly received the power to bind and loosen sins.

Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet praise him with lute and harp.

Christ, the Word of God, the revelation of the Father, asked all of you:

Who do you say that I am? Peter answered: You are the Son
of God, for you preached the word of God to all. Jesus replied:

Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. You received your reward from God because you glorified him in faith. In return, he has called you to receive riches. He placed you as the solid rock and foundation of the Church.

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

Your call came from on high and not from mortals. When the darkness of the earth covered the eyes of your body and the sadness of evil flourished openly, then the heavenly Light shone forth within your mind's eye, revealing the beauty of piety. Therefore you
recognized Christ our God who brought light out of darkness.

Entreat him to save and enlighten our souls.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

O preacher of Christ and proud bearer of his cross, you greatly desired the divine love before all things since it binds its lovers to the

Beloved. You were also called a prisoner for Christ; you were strengthened by temptations, which you considered sweeter than all

nourishment. Because you lived for your Master alone, you were made worthy of forgiveness at death. Entreat him to save
The most honorable feast has arrived, the feast of the Church of Christ, the feast of the intercessors of our salvation. Therefore, let us mystically rejoice and say to them: Rejoice, for you have become the light of those in darkness, shining splendors of the Spiritual Sun. Rejoice, O Peter and Paul, unshakable foundations of divine teachings, friends of Christ and chosen vessels. Be present among us in an invisible manner and grant spiritual gifts to those who praise your feast with hymns.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory…

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen
Theotokion

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the fruit of life.

Therefore, we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the apostles and the saints so that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

The Great Doxology

During the Psalms of Praise, the priest vests in the phelonion. At the “Glory to the Father…” of the Psalms of Praise, the deacon (or priest) opens the Holy Doors. After the last sticheron, the priest stands before the Holy Table, facing east, raises his hands, and intones:

Deacon: Glory to you who show us the light!

And the faithful continue the Great Doxology. At “Holy God,” the priest takes the Gospel Book from the tetrapod and processes with it through the Holy Doors and replaces it on the Holy Table.
Lord God, heavenly King, Father Almighty;
Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. Lord God,

Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, Jesus Christ,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen. I will bless you day after day, and praise your name forever. Make us worthy, O Lord,
the God of our fathers, and praise-worthy and glorious is your name for ever.

Amen. May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us who have placed our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your commandments.

Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your commandments.

Blessed are you, O Holy One; enlighten me with your commandments.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned against you.

O Lord, I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you, O Lord, are my God. In you is the source of life and in your
light we see light. Extend your mercy to those who know you.

Three times, each with a reverence:

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

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

Now and ever and for ever. Amen.

reverence, and sung more slowly

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

Ho - ly and Im - mort - al have mer - cy on us.

Troparion

Troparion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul - Tone 4

Leaders of the apostles, teachers of the world, intercede with the Lord of all

to grant peace to the world and abundant mercy to our souls.
The deacon says the following litany at the ambon. If there is no deacon, the priest says this litany at the Holy Doors.

Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.
Response: 1. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.
Response: 2. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this whole day 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, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.
Response: 4. Grant this, O Lord.

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 judgment 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.

Priest: We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
Prayer over Bowed Heads

Priest: Peace * be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good God who loves mankind and gives us earthly and heavenly gifts. For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: Give the blessing!

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

Response: Amen. O God, strengthen the true faith, for-ever and ev-er.
Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:

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.

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

Response:

Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ever and forever.

A-men. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

* Or, when a bishop serves:

Most reverend [arch]bishop, give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious prime apostles Peter and Paul whose feast we gloriously celebrate today; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: A - - - - - - men.