Moleben of Thanksgiving

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October, 2010
Moleben of Thanksgiving

The Priest, vested in Epitrachelion and Phelonion, standing before the Holy Table, and censing in cross-wise form, makes this beginning:

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

*Psalm tone:*

**Response:** 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 of 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.

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: 

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. (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 117

Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love endures for ever.

Let the sons of Israel say: “His love endures for ever.”
Let the sons of Aaron say:
   “His love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the Lord say:
   “His love endures forever.”

I called to the Lord in my distress;
   he answered and freed me.

The Lord is at my side; I do not fear.
   What can man do against me?

The Lord is at my side as my helper;
   I shall look down on my foes.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
   than to trust in men;

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
   than to trust in princes.

The nations all encompassed me;
   in the Lord's name I crushed them.

They compassed me, compassed me about;
   the Lord's name I crushed them.

They compassed me about like bees;
   they blazed like a fire among thorns.
   In the Lord's name I crushed them.

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,
   but the Lord was my helper.

My strength and my song is the Lord;
   he has become my salvation.

There are shouts of joy and victory
   in the tents of the just.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
   his right hand raised me.
The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

The Lord punished me severely
but did not hand me over to Death.

Open to me the gates of holiness:
I will enter and give thanks.

This is the Lord's own gate
where the just may enter.

I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my Savior.

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

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord, grant success.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God
and has revealed himself to us.

Go forward in procession with branches
even to the altar.

You are my God, I thank you.
My God, I praise you.

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

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:

\[ \text{Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glor - y to you, O God!} \]

Litany of Peace

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

Response: \[ \text{1. Lord, have mercy.} \]

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

Response: \[ \text{2. Lord, have mercy.} \]

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 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, [or: For this holy monastery], 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 the Lord God mercifully accept upon his spiritual altar this thanksgiving and supplication of his unworthy servant[s] (Name/s) and, in his compassion, have mercy on us, let us pray.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord God not reject this thanksgiving which his servant[s] (Name/s) offer[s] with a contrite heart for the benefits received from him, but that he accept it as the sweet aroma of incense and as a rich offering, let us pray.

Response: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: That the Lord God now hear the supplication of his servant[s] and fulfill the good intentions and desires which benefit his faithful people, always granting in his mercy the petitions of his holy Church and of each of us, let us pray.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord God deliver his holy Church and his servant[s] (Name/s) and all of us from all affliction, distress, wrath, need, and from every visible and invisible enemy, and safeguard the life of his servant[s] beneath the sheltering wings of his angels, and grant them peace, health, and long life, let us pray.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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 Priest prays, concluding:*

Priest: For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

The Lord is God - Resurrection Tone 4

The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The deacon (or if there is no deacon, the priest) chants the verses:

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 cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Troparion - Tone 4

We, your unworthy servants, O Lord, are grateful for your great blessings bestowed upon us; and, glorifying you, we praise and bless you; we give thanks and we sing hymns to you. Humbly exalting your loving-kindness, we cry out with love: Glory to you, our Benefactor and our Savior!
Cantor

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

Kontakion - Tone 3

O Mas-ter, you have freely granted your benefits and gifts to your un-wor-thy ser-vants. There-fore, we have come to offer thanksgiving as much as we are a-ble. Prais-ing you, our Ben-efactor and Cre-a-tor, we ex-claim:

O God most mer-ci-ful, glo-ry to you!

Now and ev-er and for-ev-er. A - - - men.

Theotokion - Tone 3

Stead-fast pro-tec-tress of Chris-tians, unfailling mediatrix before the Cre-a-tor,

do not de-spise the pray'r-ful voi-ces of sin-ners; but in your
Let me sing to the Lord for his goodness to me.

Deacon: Let my heart rejoice in your saving help.

Response: All repeat the Prokeimenon.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Letter of the holy apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Reader: (Eph 5:8-21) Brothers and sisters: Live as children of light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth. Be correct in your judgment of what pleases the Lord. Take no part in vain deeds done in darkness; rather, condemn them. It is shameful even to mention the things these people do in secret; but when such deeds are condemned they are seen in the light of day, and all that then appears is light. That is why we read: “Awake, O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

Keep careful watch over your conduct. Do not act like fools, but like thoughtful men. Make the most of the present opportunity, for these are evil days. Do not continue in ignorance, but try to discern the will of the Lord. Avoid getting drunk on wine; that leads to debauchery. Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and inspired songs. Sing praise to the Lord with all your hearts. Give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Priest: Peace be to you, reader.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 68:31,34):

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

Priest: Peace be to all.

Response:

And to your spirit, to your spirit.

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Response:

Glo-ry to you, glo-ry to you, O Lord, glo-ry to you.

Priest: (Luke 17: 12-19) At that time, as Jesus was entering a village, ten lepers met him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” On their way there they were cured. One of them, realizing he had been cured, came back praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself on his face at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus took the occasion to say, “Were not all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks to God except this foreigner?” He said to the man, “Stand up and go your way; your faith has been your salvation.”

Response:

Glo-ry to you, glo-ry to you, O Lord, glo-ry to you.

Homily

Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

Response: Lord, have mer-cy.
Deacon:   O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:

Deacon:   Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:

Deacon:   Again we pray for our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop, (Name), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response:

Deacon:   Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response:

Deacon:   Lord our Savior and Master, with fear and trembling your servants give thanks for your loving-kindness and for the abundant benefits you have showered on us. Bowing low before you and praising you our God, we cry out in humility: Deliver your servants from every misfortune and, because you are merciful, fulfill our good desires. We pray you, hear and have mercy.
Response:

Deacon: Lord, in your mercy you have heard the prayers of your servants and have shown them the goodness of your love. In the past you have not disdained our prayers, so now fulfill the good desires of your servants. Overlooking our transgressions, show your bountiful mercy to us all. We pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:

Deacon: Gracious Master, may our thanksgiving be acceptable before the majesty of your glory as the sweet aroma of incense and as a rich offering. Send down your rich mercy and bounties on us every day. Deliver your holy Church and this community from the assaults of every visible and invisible enemy. Let your people live sinlessly in health and long life; and grant them progress in all that is good. We pray you, most merciful King, hear and have mercy.

Response:

Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.
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: Amen.

And making three bows before the Holy Table, the Deacon says:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord!

Response: Lord, have mercy.

And the Priest, with all attention and compunction, reads aloud this prayer:

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and compassion, whose mercy cannot be measured and whose love for the human race is an unfathomable deep: As unprofitable servants, falling down with fear and trembling before Your majesty, now humbly bearing thanksgiving to your deep compassion for your benefits bestowed upon your servant(s), we glorify, praise, hymn, and magnify you as Lord and Master and Benefactor; and again falling down in thanksgiving for your immeasurable and ineffable loving-kindness, we humbly pray: that, as now you have counted your servants worthy that their supplications be received and mercifully fulfilled, likewise in times to come, as they flourish in sincere love for you and in every virtue, You will grant all your faithful to receive your benefits. Delivering your holy Church and this city from every evil circumstance, and granting to them peace and tranquility, count them worthy always to offer thanksgiving, to tell of your most gracious benefits, and to sing to you, together with your Father who is without beginning and your most holy, good, and consubstantial Spirit, God, worshipped in one essence.

And immediately in a loud voice, he exclaims:

Glory to you, our God and Benefactor, forever and ever!

Response: Amen.
And then the Great Doxology is sung (below), or, if desired, the Hymn of Thanksgiving of Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (on page 19).

The Great Doxology

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and to peo - ple on earth,
peace and good will. We praise you, we bless you,
we wor - ship you, we glo - ri - fy you, we thank you for your great
glo - ry. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, Fa - ther Al - might - y;
Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son, Jesus Christ, and Ho - ly Spir - it. Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy on us. You take a - way the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy 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, to be kept sinless this morning. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praise-worthy and glorious is your name forever. 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.

We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

All the earth worships you, the Father everlasting.

To you all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there in.
To you cherubim and seraphim cry out with unceasing voice:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.

Both Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory.

The glorious chorus of the apostles praises you.

The praiseworthy company of the prophets praises you.

The white-robed army of the martyrs praises you.

The holy Church throughout the world acknowledges you:

the Father of an infinite majesty; your adorable, true, and only Son; and the Holy Spirit,
the Paraclete. You are the King of Glory, O Christ!

You are the everlasting Son of the Father. When you took up on you to deliver the human race, you did not disdain the Virgin's womb.

When you had overcome the sting of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our Judge. We therefore pray you to help your servants whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with your saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save your people, and bless your inheritance.

Govern us and lift us up for ever. Day by day we bless you, and we praise your name for ever, to the ages of ages. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our hope in you.

In you, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be confounded.
Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:

More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the sera-phim,

who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni-fy.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ 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 forev-er.

A-men. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer-cy. Give the bless-ing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the prayers of Name), (patron of the church) and of (Name), (whose feast we keep this day) and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Priest: To your servant[s] (Name/s), grant, O Lord, many years.

Response:

In health and happiness, in health and happiness, God grant him many blessed years.

Added only after the final intonation:

God grant him many years.

Or:

God grant him many blessed years.

Added only after the final intonation:

In health and happiness, God grant him many blessed years.