Moleben to the Holy Bishop-Martyr Theodore of Mukachevo

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

Response:

During the Paschal season, omit "Glory to you" and "Heavenly King" and sing three times:

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled death,

and to those in the tombs he granted life.

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.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Priest:  
Response: (sung twice)

Glory to the Father, and to the 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 142

O Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.

Do not call your servant to judgment
for no one is just in your sight.

The enemy pursues my soul;
he has crushed my life to the ground;

he has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead, long forgotten.

Therefore my spirit fails;
my heart is numb within me.

I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all your works.

I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.

Lord, make haste and answer;
for my spirit fails within me.
Do not hide your face
lest I become like those in the grave.

In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust in you.

Make me know the way I should walk:
to you I lift up my soul.

Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.

Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are my God.

Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and smooth.

For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;
in your justice save my soul from distress.

In your love make an end of my foes;
destroy all those who oppress me
for I am your servant, O Lord.

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!

The third time, with melody:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!
The deacon chants:

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

Response: Resurrection Tone 4

\[ \text{The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.} \]

The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses. If there is no deacon, the priest remains at the holy doors and chants the verses.

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

Response: repeat “The Lord is God...”

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

Response: repeat “The Lord is God...”

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

Response: repeat “The Lord is God...”

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

Response: repeat “The Lord is God...”
My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!

Up on a cart as up on his bishop's throne, Theodore has been carried beyond the sanctuary veil. Let fall, O father, your mantle of pray'r, and beseech Christ to save our souls.

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

Festal Theotokion - in the same tone

The mystery hidden from all ages and unknown to the angels has been made known to those on earth through you, O Theotokos.

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.
We ex-tol you, O bi-shop The-o-dore, and we praise your mar-tyr-dom most glo-ri-ous, which you en-dured for Christ and his Church.

The deacon chants the following verses, and the faithful repeat the Exaltation after each verse.

Verse: I love you, Lord, my strength, * my rock, my fortress, my savior.

Verse: The snares of the grave entangled me; * the traps of death confronted me.

Verse: From on high he reached down and seized me; * he drew me forth from the many waters.

Verse: Glory...now and ever...

Then three times, each with a reverence:

All repeat "We extol you..."

Bulgarian verse

O faith-ful, in joy let us keep the mar-tyr's feast!

The an-gels, with glad voi-ces wel-come bi-shop The-o-dore, who shed his
Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O 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,
   nor deprive me of your holy spirit.
Though the god-less poured poison into your veins,
your heart still beats with love for Christ,
O bishop Theodore, martyred father,
who now raise your prayers before the Throne of God.

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.

Kontakion - Tone 8

Though the god-less poured poison into your veins, your heart still beats with love for Christ, O bishop Theodore, martyred father, who now raise your prayers before the Throne of God.
Ikos (recited by the priest)

Not to us, Lord, not to us but to you be the glory! Even in the midst of our sins you have raised up a great light for us: Theodore the great and priestly martyr. You give us grace to sing:

Rejoice! Shepherd of Mukachevo
Rejoice! Light of Užhorod;
Rejoice! Humility among the hills;
Rejoice! Strength amid the trees;
Rejoice! Sweet drink for a thirsty people;
Rejoice! Steadfast beyond all hope;
Rejoice! Bishop Theodore, martyred father,

and the faithful conclude:

Response: who now raise your prayers be-fore the Throne of God.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Deacon: Hear this, all you peoples, give heed all who dwell in the world.

All repeat the prokeimenon
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 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.

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!

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

All repeat "Let everything that lives..."

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.


Response:

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive.

Priest: [Luke 12: 32-40; Saturday of the 28th Week after Pentecost]

Response:

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Stichera after Psalm 50

Tone 6 samohlasen

Cantor:

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

All:

Through the pray'rs of the holy bishop-martyr Theodore, O Merciful
One, cleanse us of our many sins.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Through the pray'rs of the The-o-to-kos, O Merci-ful One, cleanse us of our many sins.

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

Doxastikon of the holy bishop-martyr Theodore - Tone 6 samohlasen

They forced his cart from the road, but Theodore did not waver from the path of right-eous-ness. They injected him with poi-son, but it could not touch the heart that overflowed with love for Truth. They shrouded their evil deeds in se-cre-cy, but Theodore’s light could not be dimmed.
Your martyr, O Lord, is our Church's boast! Through his holy prayers, save our souls.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

Response:

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

Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for the 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:

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

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

Response:

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

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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: 

It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mother of our God. 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.

_Hymn to the Theotokos_

During the Paschal season, “Shine in splendor” is sung in place of “It is truly proper.”
Stichera

From the Praises at Matins - Tone 1 podoben: Prechvalnyj mučenicy

O holy martyred bishop, you took up your cross and followed Christ. You were our example, most blameless and chaste, vigilant and sober, a true teacher, a man of love who laid down his life for his friends. Pray to Christ the Lord for us that he may bestow peace on our souls his peace and great mercy.

Cantor

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

All

Theodore, great hierarch, the faithful boast of Mukachevo, Shepherd of Užhorod, patient, you fought no-one except to follow Christ;
not covetous except for the cup which the Master also drank.

Pray to Christ the Lord for us that he may bestow peace on our souls his peace and great mercy.

What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Apostle of the mountains, angel of glad tidings of peace to the towns, friend in mines and forests, O Theodore, you took care first of your own house, as Paul decreed, so that you could truly father the Church of God. Pray to Christ the Lord for us that he may bestow peace on our souls his peace and great mercy.
The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Humble servant of the Lord, obedient even unto death,
pattern of holiness, well-trained, yet you spurned pride which is from the devil, of good repute, a great beacon even for those outside your fold,

Pray to Christ the Lord for us that he may bestow peace on our souls his peace and great mercy.

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

Kept from the ancient monastery on the Black Hill, Theodore led a
multitude in prayer on the great feast offering on the day of the Dormition

prayers for the life of his people in the parish church of Mukachevo.

Pray for us now, O father, joining your prayers with our patron Nicholas,

from whose monastery you were wrongly kept, and beg from God life and health for

all our parishes, for our bishops, our priests, and all our monks,

and for all our faithful.

Cantor

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion - in the same tone

All-holy Mother of God, beyond nature you gave birth in the flesh to the

Eternal God beyond Godhead; to you we sing our hymns of praise!
Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our [morning or evening] prayer to the Lord.

Response:  

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

Response:  

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

Response:  

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

Response:  

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 may 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.

Deacon: Let us bend our knees [Sundays and Pascha: necks] in prayer to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, whose loving-kindness is shown toward us through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ: we thank you for the witness of your martyrs, who, age after age, live the mystery of the Pasch of the Lord for love of you and of the Church which you established. In particular, we thank you for the life and glorious death of the bishop-martyr Theodore, shepherd of Mukachevo. From the days of his youth, he heard your call to the priesthood, and devoted himself to prayer and to the study of your word. With your divine grace, which fills all that is lacking, you made him your priest forever, and gave him a heart which burned with the desire to serve you by serving your Rusyn people. You instilled in him a great love for your humble poor, and showed him to be a true father to those in his charge. Through difficult and unstable times, in the midst of war and persecution, he set an example of trust in you which was of great blessing to the seminarians in his charge.
When the bishop of Mukachevo fell asleep in you, you called blessed Theodore to a deeper identification with your Son Jesus, the Shepherd of our souls, by raising him to the apostolic college to bless, to teach, and to govern your Church. Placing all of his trust in you, he chose to follow your Word, which taught: “I love you, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my fortress and the rock of my refuge.” In the face of ruthless foes of the faith, he bravely defended both Church and people, striving to preserve both the ancient faith and the unity of his local church with the See of Peter. Faithful to the last, he gave his life in witness to your Son, and received from you the crown that can never fade away.

In his name, then, O loving God, we come to you and, strengthened by his intercession, ask for your blessing. Send down on our bishops and clergy and all those committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace. Grant that your Byzantine Catholic Church may truly preach your Word and have it truly heard, and the Sacraments of your Gospel faithfully celebrated and faithfully lived out. With your bishop-martyr Theodore as our example, fashion our lives more and more in the image of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all those among whom we live.

We ask you this, O God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit are blessed and glorified as God, merciful and of great kindness, now and ever and forever.

Response:  

A - men.

Dismissal
(In Paschal time, see page 24)

Deacon:  Wisdom!

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

Response:

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 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.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, and of the holy (Names/s), the patron of this church; through the prayers of the holy martyr Theodore, Bishop of Mukachevo; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.
Paschal 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, uphold the holy and true faith, forever and ever.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem,
for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.
O Zion, now dance and be glad;
and you, pure Theotokos, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.

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

Response: Christ is risen from the dead!
by death he trampled death
And to those in the tombs
he granted life.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Give the blessing!

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 the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, and of the holy (Names/s), the patron of this church; through the prayers of the holy martyr Theodore, Bishop of Mukachevo; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: A - - - - - - - - men.