

# The Order of Vespers on Palm Sunday



for celebration without a priest

Metropolitan Cantor Institute  
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

March 2020



## The Order of Sunday Evening Vespers on Palm Sunday

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

**Response:**

*Psalm tone:*

A - men.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



You stretch out the heavens like a tent.  
Above the rains you build *your* dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of *the* wind;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*And again:*

You made the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time for *its* setting.  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made *them* all.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (*bow*)  
Glory to you, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (*bow*)  
Glory to you, O God!

*And the third time, to melody:*



The musical notation is a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes for the first three phrases: 'Al - le - lu - ia!', 'Al - le - lu - ia!', and 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The final phrase, 'Glo - ry to you, O God!', is written with a slur over the notes and includes a fermata over the final note. The instruction '(bow)' is placed above the staff at the beginning of the final phrase.

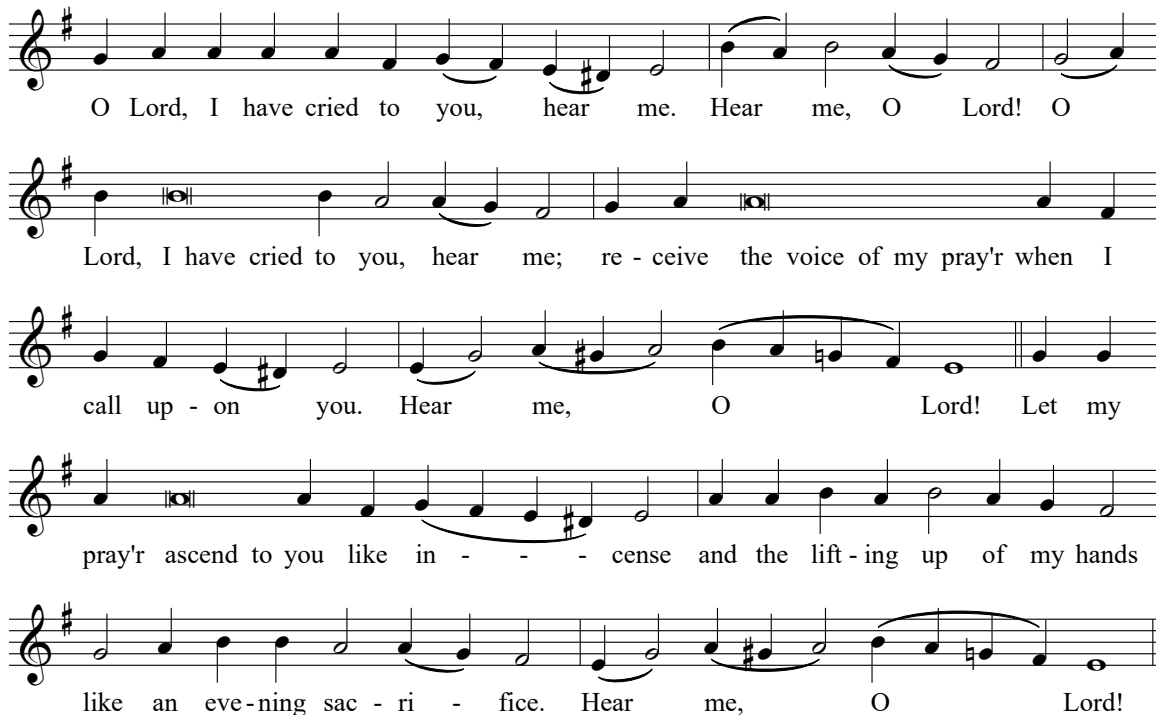
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! (*bow*)  
Glo - ry to you, O God!

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

## The Lamplighting Psalms

### Psalm 140 - Tone 8 samohlasen



O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O  
Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I  
call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my  
pray'r ascend to you like in - - - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands  
like an eve - ning sac - ri - - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.  
Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuse for the sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.  
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness  
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;  
then they understood that my words *were* kind.  
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.



To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;  
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!  
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;  
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

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

### Psalm 141

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.  
I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.  
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.  
Look on my right and see:  
there is no one who takes *my* part.

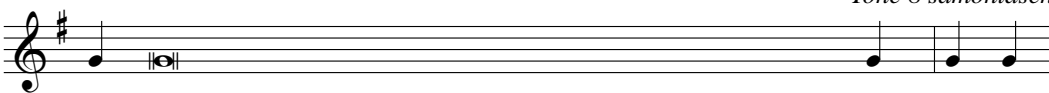
I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for *my* soul.  
I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry  
for I am in the depths of *distress*.  
Rescue me from those who pursue me  
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise *your* name.  
Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.

### Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord hear *my* voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

Cantor: 

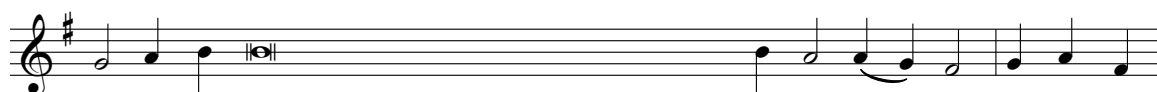
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur-vive? But with



you is found forgive-ness: for this we re - vere you.



Re-joyce, O ci - ty of Zi - - on, and dance with joy, O Church of God;



for be-hold your King comes to you in meekness and hu-mil - i - ty; the chil-dren



wel-come him and sing: Ho-san-na in the high - est! Bless-ed are you, O



Com-pas - sion - ate Lord. Have mer - cy on us!

Cantor: 

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word. My soul is

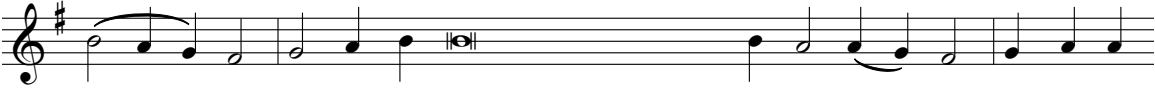


longing for the Lord more than watch - man for day - - break.

(Repeat "Rejoice, O city of Zion...".)

Cantor:  Let the watchman count on day-break and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

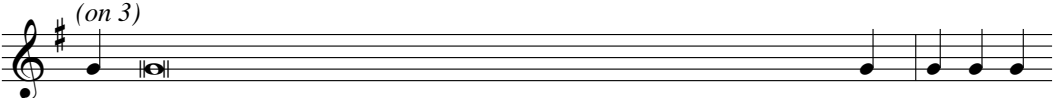
 The Sav - ior has come into the city of Je - ru - sa - lem to - day to ful - fill the

 Scrip - tures. See the peo - ple spread their garments a - long the way; they car - ry

 palms and branch - es in their hands, and re - cognize that he in - deed is our God.

 And the cher - ubim sing to him un - ceas - ing - ly: bless - ed are you,

 O com - pas - sion - ate Lord; have mer - cy on us!

Cantor  Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp - tion, Is ra - el

 indeed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

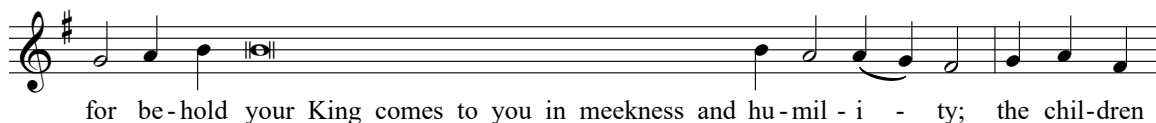
*(Repeat "The Savior has come into the city of Jerusalem today...")*

Cantor *(on 2)*

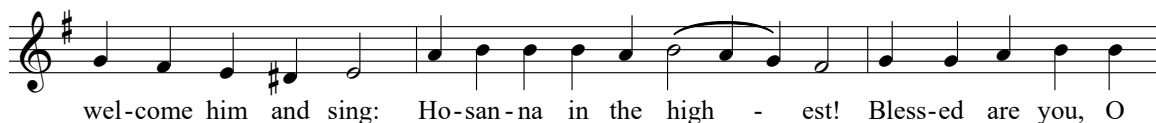
**Doxastika of Palm Sunday - Tone 8 samohlasen**



Re-joyce, O ci - ty of Zi - - on, and dance with joy, O Church of God;




for be-hold your King comes to you in meekness and hu-mil - i - ty; the chil-dren



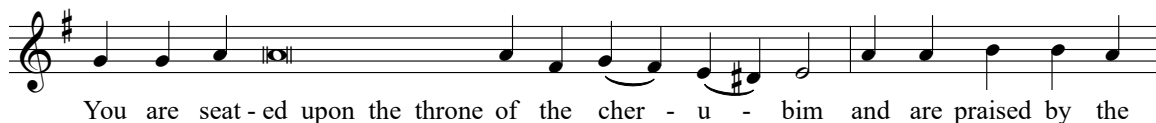
wel-come him and sing: Ho-san-na in the high - est! Bless-ed are you, O



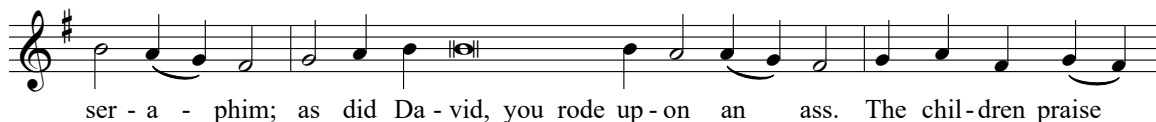
Com-pas - sion - ate Lord. Have mer - cy on us!

*Cantor:* 

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



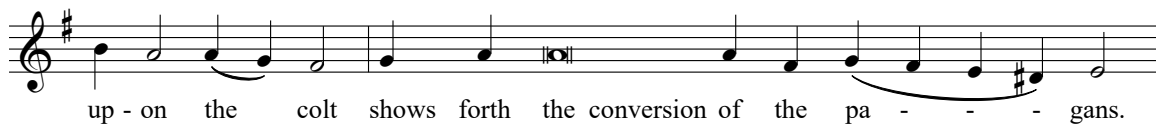
You are seat-ed upon the throne of the cher - u - bim and are praised by the



ser - a - phim; as did Da - vid, you rode up-on an ass. The chil-dren praise



you as God; the Phar - isees blaspheme you un - just - ly; and your rid - ing



up - on the colt shows forth the conversion of the pa - - - gans.

O on - ly Lover of hu - man - i - ty and com - pas - sion - ate Lord: glo - ry to you!

*A candle may be lit, representing the light of Christ. All stand and sing:*

### Hymn of the Evening

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

## The Evening Prokeimenon

Prokeimenon of Sunday evening - Tone 8 (Psalm 133:1; 2)



Come, bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord; come, bless the Lord,  
all you who serve the Lord.

**Leader** Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.  
*All repeat the Prokeimenon.*

## Hymn of Glorification

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

Lord, your mercy is forever;  
despise not the work of *your* hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a hymn;  
to you is glory due.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

## Aposticha

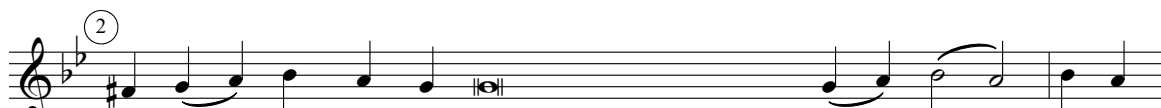
*Tone 2 samohlasen*


①


Pass - ing from the feast of palms and branch - es, O faith - ful, to the ven - er - a - ble  
and saving solemnity of the suf - frings of Christ, let us be - hold him  
who voluntarily endures his Pas - sion for us, and in thanks - giv - ing, let  
us sing: O Foun - tain of mercy and Harbor of sal - va - tion,  
O Lord, glo - ry to you!




*Cantor:*  Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked won - - - ders.

 It is awe - some to fall into the hands of the liv - ing God! For he


 judg - es our thoughts and the se - crets of our hearts; let no one test his

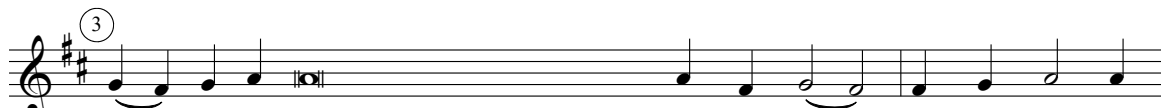
 ir - reproach - a - ble fi - del - i - ty! But in fear and hu - mility, let us

 go to Christ and be - seech his help and great mer - cy.

*Cantor*

*Tone 7 samohlasen*

*Cantor:*  All the ends of the earth have seen the sal - va - tion of our God.

 O Je - ru - salem, light your lamp to wel - come the Lord who shall come like

 the Bridegroom in the mid - dle of the night; he shall re - new his covenant with you,

 O new Zi - on, through the tes - ta - ment that you shall in - her - it. For he

shall not suf - fer outside your walls, O Je - ru - sa - lem. He is the One sent by the  
 Fa - ther; the proph - ets pro - claim him as the Son who shall come to ful - fill  
 the proph - e - cies; the chil - dren praise him and sing out: Ho - san - na to the  
 Son of Da - vid; bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Tone 2 samohlasen*

*Cantor:*

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

**Aposticha doxastikon of Palm Sunday - *Tone 2 samohlasen***

Pass - ing from the feast of palms and branch - es, O faith - ful, to the ven - er - a - ble  
 and saving solemnity of the suf - frings of Christ, let us be - hold him who  
 voluntarily endures his Pas - sion for us, and in thanks - giv - ing, let us sing:

O Foun - tain of mercy and Harbor of sal - va - tion, O Lord,  
 glo - ry to you!

*Tone 3 samhlasen*

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

*Tone 3 samohlasen*

It is awe - some to fall into the hands of the liv - ing God! For he  
 judg - es our thoughts and the se - crets of our hearts; let no one test his  
 ir - reproach - a - ble fi - del - i - ty! But in fear and hu - mility, let us  
 go to Christ and be - seech his help and great mer - cy.

## The Prayer of Holy Simeon the God-Bearer

*chanted to the usual psalm tone*

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

## Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,  
have mercy **on** us. (*3 times, with a bow each time*)

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

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

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

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.


**Response:**   
A - men.


## Dismissal for Fasts


### Troparion to the Theotokos - Tone 4

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

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


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

 *Prostration*  
of our souls.

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

### Troparion to John the Forerunner - Tone 4

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

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



*Prostration*

our be - half.



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

**Troparion to the saints - Tone 4**



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



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



*Prostration*

the Sav - ior.

*Then this hymn to the Theotokos, using either melody:*

A



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



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



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

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

*Or:*

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

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

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

*The following is sung four times:*

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

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

*Greek:* Kyrie, eleison. *Slavonic:* Hospodi, pomiluj.

*Hungarian:* Uram irgalmazz. *Spanish:* Señor ten piedad.

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

**Response:**

A - men.

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

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

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

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

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

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody for the word 'Amen' is written as a continuous line of notes: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The notes are connected by a long slur. Below the staff, the word 'Amen' is written with hyphens under each syllable: 'A - - - - - men.'

### The Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

**All:** Lord and Master of my life,  
spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,  
lust for power, and idle chatter. (*Prostration*)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant,  
the spirit of integrity, humility,  
patience, and love. (*Prostration*)

Yes, O Lord and King,  
let me see my own sins  
and not judge my brothers and sisters;  
for you are blessed forever and ever. *Amen*. (*Prostration*)