

Office of Consolation
Or
PARACLISIS

P: Blessed † is our God at all times, now and always and forever and ever.

All: Amen

Pslam 142
(Confidence in the Lord)

Lord, listen to my prayer; in your truth give heed to my request and in your justice hear me,

And enter not into judgment with Your servant since of all the living, none is just before You.

The enemy has pursued my soul, he has crushed my life into the ground;

He has forced me to dwell in darkness like those long dead.

My spirit was overwhelmed with grief and within me my heart was troubled.

Remembering the days of old, I meditated on all your deeds, I thought of the works of your hands.

I stretched out my hands to You; like a parched land my soul longed for You.

Listen to me without delay, O Lord: my spirit has failed me;

Turn not Your face away from me nor let me sink in the pit like the others.

Grant that I may hear Your love at dawn for I have placed my hope in You.

O Lord, let me know which way I shall go for I have lifted up my soul to You.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies: it is to You that I have fled.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may your good Spirit lead me over level ground.

For the sake of Your name, O Lord, You will keep me alive;

**In Your saving bounty, You will deliver my soul from oppression,
And in Your loving kindness, You will destroy my enemies**

And bring to naught all those who grieve my soul, for I am your servant.

The Lord is God (4th tone)

The Lord is God, and He has appeared to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

V. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

The Lord is God, and He has appeared to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

V. All the nations encompassed me: in the name of the Lord, I crushed them.

The Lord is God, and He has appeared to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

V. This was done by the Lord: it is wonderful in our eyes.

The Lord is God, and He has appeared to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Troparion (4th tone)

To the Mother of God let us poor sinners run now diligently and fall down before her in repentance; let us cry out from the depth of our souls: O Lady, in your compassion come to our aid! Make haste, for we are perishing under the multitude of our sins. Do not turn away your servants empty-handed, for you are our only hope.

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

We will never cease, O Mother of God, although unworthy, to proclaim your power. If you no longer intercede for us, who will deliver us from so many misfortunes? Who would ever have preserved us free until now? We shall never leave you, O Lady, for you always save your servants from all tribulations.

Psalm 50

(Prayer of Repentance)

O God, have mercy on me in the greatness of Your love;

In the abundance of Your tender mercies, wipe out my offense.

Wash me thoroughly from malice and cleanse me from sin,

For I am well aware of my malice and my sin is before me always.

It is You alone I have offended, I have done what is evil in Your sight,

Wherefore You are just in Your deeds and triumphant in Your judgment.

Behold, I was born in iniquities and in sins my mother conceived me.

But You are the lover of truth: You have shown me the depths and secrets of Your wisdom.

Wash me with hyssop and I shall be pure, cleanse me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear sounds of joy and feasting: the bones that were afflicted shall rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my offenses and wipe off all my sins.

A spotless heart create in me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit in my breast.

Cast me not afar from Your face, take not Your blessed Spirit out of me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and let Your guiding Spirit dwell in me.

I will teach Your ways to the sinners and the wicked shall return to You.

Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God, and my tongue will joyfully sing Your justice.

O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Had You desired sacrifice, I would have offered it, but You will not be satisfied with whole-burnt offerings.

Sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit: a crushed and humbled heart God will not spurn.

In Your kindness, O Lord, be bountiful to Sion; may the walls of Jerusalem be restored.

Then will You delight in just oblation, in sacrifice and whole-burnt offerings.

Then shall they offer calves upon your altar.

CANON (8th tone)

FIRST ODE

Hirmos

Choir: The people of Israel, having fled from Egypt's captivity, crossed the sea as through dry land; and so, they cried out in jubilation: let us now sing to our God and Deliver.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: Surrounded by many temptations, O Virgin, to I flee, to be sheltered in your saving care, O Mother of God the Word, our Saviour, deliver me from distress and adversity.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: My passions upset me with their assaults, discouragement fills my soul, restore peacefulness to my disturbed soul. Grant me the peace of your Son, the peace of your God.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: O Virgin who gave birth to Christ our God, I earnestly call on you to deliver me from distress. To you I come, asking for a shelter; it is to you that I raise my heart and my thoughts.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: O you, who alone are the Mother of God and the Mother of Good One, take away from me all disease: disease of my soul and of my body, and make me worthy of God's assistance and your care.

THIRD ODE

Hirmos

Choir: O Creator of heaven and its most lofty mansions, Builder of the Church on its basis, strengthen my love for You, O supreme goal of our love. You are the strength of the faithful and You are alone the good Lover of mankind.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: I choose you as a shelter and a protection for my life. O Mother of God, O pure Virgin, lead me to safe repose: channel of all good things and firm support of the faithful, O you who indeed are alone worthy of our praise.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: I beseech you, O Virgin: quiet the storm in my soul and dispel the surge of my sadness, for you, O bride of God, have given birth to the Lord: Mother of Christ the Prince of Peace, O you who indeed are alone the all spotless one.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: You who carried within you the Benefactor of all and the Cause of every good favor, let His abundant grace spring forth to all of us. You have the fullness of power, since you've given birth to the Christ, the almighty One.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: I am struck down by sickness and by distressing passions. I request your aid, O pure Virgin, hurry and help me now, for I know well that you are a ready treasure of healings perfect and abundant, O All-Blameless One.

The people stand and the choir sing:

Choir: Deliver your servants from all dangers, O Mother of God, for to you after God we flee for shelter. You are our impregnable fortress, our intercessor.

Choir: O Mother of God, worthy of all praise, look down with compassion upon the ills of my afflicted body and heal the infirmities of my soul.

SYNAPTE

Then the priest says:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy. We pray You: hear and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for our (Arch)bishop N., and for all our brethren in Christ.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation, for the servants of God, the

members of this parish and for those who are united with us in this prayer to obtain the graces of a holy life. Let us beseech the Lord for each and every one of them, for the benefactors of this holy Church and for us its servants.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians, that the Lord God, the Holy One, will bestow upon them His grace for their eternal salvation, prosper their good works, heal their sick, return safely their absent loved ones, and grant rest to the souls of their departed. Let us say for them all:

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

For You are a gracious God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Kathisma (2nd tone)

O fervent intercessor and unassailable rampart; O fountain of mercy and refuge of the world: we eagerly cry out to you: O Lady, Mother of God, hurry and deliver us from tribulations, for you are alone a swift intercessor.

FORTH ODE

Hirmos

The people sit and continue:

Choir: O my Lord, I have heard today of the mystery of Your providential plan and have meditated on Your works: so I glorify Your awesome Deity.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: Pacify the surge of my passions and quiet the storm and turbulence of my sins; for you are the blessed Bride of God and have given birth to the merciful Lord.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: You who bore the Compassionate, the Saviour of those who praise you, O Virgin: grant that I, who put my trust in you, may enjoy the fullness of your kindness.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: We rejoice, O All-Blameless One, for the special gifts you have granted to us; so we sing a hymn of thanks to you, whom we recognize as truly Mother of God.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: You who are worthy of all praise, our hope and the refuge of our salvation, our defensive and unshaking wall, grant us to be safe from all calamities.

FIFTH ODE

Hirmos

Choir: Give light to our hearts with Your ordinances, O my Lord, and through the power of Your extended arm grant us Your peace, for You are the Lover of Mankind.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: Give me your pure joy, Virgin all pure and immaculate, you who gave birth to the Cause of happiness, and fill my heart with the gladness of your Son, our God.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: Save us from distress, O spotless Mother of God, you who gave birth to Salvation without end, the divine Peace that surpasses human understanding.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: Dissipate the gloom and the darkness of my sinful deeds, and with your radiance fill our souls with joy, O bride of God, who gave birth to the eternal Light.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: Heal the misery of my passions, O spotless one, and make me worthy of your gracious care, and grant me health through your constant and unfailing prayer.

SIXTH ODE

Hirmos

Choir: I pour out before the Lord my humble prayer and to Him I expound my deep sorrow. My soul is filled with intense tribulation and my poor life is too close to the low abyss. And so like Jonah I cry out: "O my God, from corruption deliver!"

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: O Virgin, beseech the Lord, your dearest Son, who delivered Himself to a grim death and saved my nature from death and corruption, to which I had been condemned by my many sins. Beseech Him that I may be saved from the hand of my terrible enemy.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: O Virgin, I believe that your fervent prayer will protect me and save me from danger, dispelling every temptation and casting out of my way all the snares of Evil One. So I implore you without cease: make me free from my passions and evil deeds.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: O Maiden, you have been given unto us as a wall behind which we find refuge, as a sure means of salvation for our souls, as a relief from distress and a pure delight. O Lady, save us at all times from our passions and all tribulations.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: Behold, now, how ill I am and sick in bed! There is no healing for my sick body! I come to you and implore your great mercy, for you gave birth to the Saviour of all the world. Deliver me from my disease, raising me from this bed of infirmity.

The people stand and the choir sings:

Choir: Deliver your servants from all dangers, O Mother of God, for to you after God we flee for shelter. You are our impregnable fortress, our intercessor.

Choir: O Mother of God, worthy of all praise, look down with compassion upon the ills of my afflicted body and heal the infirmities of my soul.

SYNAPTE

Then the priest says:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy. We pray You: hear us and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for our (Arch)bishop N., and for all our brethren in Christ.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation, for the servants of God, the

members of this parish and for those who are united with us in this prayer to obtain the graces of a holy life. Let us beseech the Lord for each and every one of them, for the benefactors of this holy Church and for us its servants.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians, that the Lord God, the Holy One, will bestow upon them His grace for their eternal salvation, prosper their good works, heal their sick, return safely their absent loved ones, and grant rest to the souls of their departed. Let us say for them all:

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

For You are the King of Peace and the Saviour of our souls and we render glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

All: amen.

KONTAKION (2nd tone)

Choir: O Never-Failing Protectress of Christians and their ever-present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners who have recourse to you, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, O you who have always protected those who honour you!

ANAVATHMI (4th tone)

Ascent or Gradual

The choir continues:

From my youth many passions fight against me, but You, O my Saviour, help me and save me.

You, the enemies of Zion, flee in your shame before the Lord. As grass before the fire you shall be withered up.

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

By the Holy Spirit is every soul filled with life, and through purification it is raised and made bright by the threefold Unity in a holy mystery.

Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Through the Holy Spirit streams of grace overflow to water the whole creation and

bring it to the fullness of life.

Prokimenon (4th tone)

I shall proclaim Your name from generation to generation. (2 times)

Listen, O daughter and see and incline your ear and forget your people and your father's house, and the King will desire your beauty.

I shall proclaim your name from generation to generation.

Gospel

Reading from the Gospel (Luke 1: 39-48, 56)

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord, our God, to make us worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel. Peace † to all.

All: And to your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the Evangelist.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Now in those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town of Juda. And she entered the house of Zachary and saluted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe in her womb leapt. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out with a loud voice, saying: "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb! And how have I deserved that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, the moment that the sound of thy greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who has believed, because the things promised her by the Lord shall be accomplished." And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; because He has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid; for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; because He who is mighty has done great things for 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 their heart. He has put down the mighty from their seat, and has exalted the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has given help to Israel, his servant being mindful of His love. Even as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her own house.

Choir: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

The choir continues singing:

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

O Father, O Word, O Holy Spirit, Trinity one in essence, take away the multitude of our iniquities.

Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Mother of God, O merciful One, take away the multitude of our sins.

Have mercy on me, O God in Your goodness; in Your great tenderness take away my iniquities!

Hymn to the Mother of God

O Most Holy Lady, do not entrust me to any human help, but receive the prayer of your servant. Distress is all around me; no longer can I bear the darts of the demons: I have no shelter and no place to hide. My foes are on all sides; I have no relief but in you alone! O Queen of the whole world, the hope and the support of all the faithful, turn not away from my prayer, but do for me whatever is best.

No one of those who runs to you goes away in confusion, O Virgin Mother of God. He seeks a favor and he obtains a priceless gift that satisfies his need.

O Virgin Mother of God, the joy of the afflicted and the salvation of the sick, save your people; save your community, O peace of those are at war, O quiet harbor of those who are battered by storms O only hope of faithful souls.

Priest: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon Your world with mercy and compassion. Raise to glory the Orthodox Christians and shower upon us Your abundant mercies, through the intercession of our all-pure Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the honorable and incorporeal Powers of Heaven; of the honorable and illustrious prophet, the Forerunner John the Baptist; of the holy and glorious Apostles worthy of all praise; of our Fathers among the Saints and great oecumenical teachers and

Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; (*of Athanasius and Cyril the patriarchs of Alexandria*); of our Father among the Saints Nicholas the wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; of our holy and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Ann; [of Saint N., patron of this holy church (*or of this holy monastery*), of Saint N., whose memory we celebrate today,] and of all the saints, we beseech You, O most merciful Lord, listen to the prayers that we sinners offer You, and have mercy on us.

Reader: Lord, have mercy! (12 times)

Priest: Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

SEVENTH ODE **Hirmos**

The people sit and they continue:

Choir: The young men of Judea, who were brought into Babylon in captivity, had the power to trample the flames of the furnace, for they sang to the Trinity: Blessed are You, O our God – the God of our Fathers.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: When You wanted, O Saviour to fulfill in Your bounty for us Your saving plan, then You dwelt in the arms of the holy Virgin Mother, giving her the world to protect. Blessed are You, O our God – the God of our Fathers.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: O most pure Virgin Mother, pray the merciful One to whom you have given birth so that we may be freed from all sins and all uncleanness, and cry out with unshaken faith: “Blessed are You, O our God – the God of our Fathers.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: You established Your Mother as a wealth of salvation, a flowing source of life, a fortress for protection, a door open for penance, for those who cry out to You in faith: “Blessed are You, O our God – the God of our Fathers.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: Grant, we pray, O Mother of God, to our bodies and souls remedy from all disease, for anxiously we flee for salvation under your wings, O immaculate Virgin, Mother of our Lord and Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

EIGHTH ODE

Hirmos

Choir: The King of Heaven, to whom the orders of angels offer praise, exaltation, and worship let us highly honour forever and ever.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: Virgin and Maiden, turn not away from your children, who with faith run to you for assistance. They praise and exalt you forever and ever.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: A flow of healings you pour upon those who hymn you with assurance, O all-spotless Virgin, praising and exalting your birthgiving forever.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: O most pure Virgin, you heal my weakness of spirit and the sickness of my weary body; therefore, gracious Lady, I'll sing to you forever.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: O favored Virgin, you drive away the temptations and the sudden attacks of my passions, so I sing your praises forever and ever.

NINTH ODE

Hirmos

Choir: O Virgin immaculate, by you we have been saved; we shall proclaim that you are truly the Mother of God, and with the hosts of angels we glorify your name.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: O Virgin, do not despise how my tears are flowing, for you are Mother of Christ the Compassionate, who wipes away from all faces the tears of weeping hearts.

All: O most holy Mother of God, save us!

Reader: O Virgin pour in my heart rivers of rejoicing, for you received all the fullness of happiness, and cast away, holy Mother, the sadness of my sins.

All: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader: O Virgin, enlighten us with the beams of your light, and cast away from us our gloomy ignorance – we who proclaim with devotion that you are Mother of God.

All: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: In this valley of distress, overcome by sickness, I cry to you: in your mercy restore me. Replace my weakness by power, turn my disease into health.

Megalynarion (8th tone)

All: It is fitting and right to call you blessed, O Theotokos, the ever-blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God, higher in honour than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. You gave birth to God the Word in virginity. You are truly Mother of God: you do we exalt.

The priest incenses the holy table, the icon of the Mother of God, and the people while they say:

Let us sing the praise of the Virgin more lofty than Heaven and more pure than the shining stars. Let us praise, O faithful, the Queen of all creation who has delivered us from the curse.

My body ails and my soul is sick because of the multitude of my sins. To you I come for shelter, O Woman full of grace: be my help, O you the hope of those who are beyond all hope!

O Lady, Mother of the Saviour, receive the supplications of your unworthy servants: deign to intercede before your Son; be our mediator, O Queen of creation!

O Mother of God, worthy of all praise, we sing to you this hymn, exulting joyfully: O Mother of God, together with the Forerunner and with all the saints, pray that your Son may have mercy on us.

O you all the hosts of angels, and you the Forerunner, and you the Twelve Apostles, and you all the saints, pray with the Mother of God for the salvation of our souls.

The priest, standing before the icon of the Mother of God, makes a deep reverence and says:

May the lips of the heretics be sealed, of those who refuse to bow before your honorable and peace-giving icon, painted by Luke the apostle and great saint.

Invocation to the Holy Trinity

The people continue:

Holy † God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (3 times)

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive us our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake. Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Glory be to the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. 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.

And the priest says aloud:

For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Troparia of Repentance (6th tone)

Singer I: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. At a loss for any defense, we sinners offer this prayer to You, the Master: have mercy on us.

Singer II: Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have put our trust in You; rise not in full anger against

us and do not remember our transgressions, but look down upon us even now in the depth of your mercy and save us from our enemies: for You are our God and we are Your people, we are all the work of Your hands, and we constantly call upon Your name.

Singer III: Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Mother of God, open the portal of your deep mercy to us who put our trust in you, so that we may not be brought to confusion, but, through you, we may be delivered from adversity, for you are the salvation of the Christian fold.

SYNAPTE

Then the priest says:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy. We pray You, hear us and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for our (Arch)bishop N., and for all our brethren in Christ.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation, for the servants of God, the members of this parish and for those who are united with us in this prayer to obtain the graces of a holy life. Let us beseech the Lord for each and every one of them, for the benefactors of this holy Church and for us its servants.

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray for all Orthodox Christians, that the Lord God, the Holy One, will bestow upon them His grace for their eternal salvation, prosper their good works, heal their sick, return safely their absent loved ones, and grant rest to the souls of their departed. Let us say for them all:

All: Lord, have mercy! (3 times)

Again we pray that this holy place and every city and country place may be spared from famine and pestilence, earthquake and flood, fire and sword, foreign invasion and civil war: that our loving and good God may be gentle, merciful and pliable, and that He may avert from us all threatening danger and save us from His just anger that hangs over us, and that He may have mercy on us.

All: Lord, have mercy! (40 times)

Hear us, O God our Saviour, hope of all those who live at the far ends of the world and of those far out at sea; be kind to us, O Master, forgive us our sins and have mercy on us, for You are the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind, and we render glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

APOLYSIS

Glory to You, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

May Christ, our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of His all-pure Mother, of all the saints, and of the glorious apostles worthy of all praise, for He is truly gracious and the Lover of Mankind.

All: Amen.

FINAL HYMN

The people kiss the icon of the Mother of God during the recitation of this final hymn:

Gracious Virgin, victory will come to those who put their trust in the strength of your arm, for we sinners who stoop with the weight of our sins have none before God to plead for but you.

O Mother of God most high, we bend our knee to you: deliver your faithful servants from every kind of trouble.

You are joy to the distressed, you are strength to the oppressed, you are food to those who sink into despair.

You console all the strangers, you support all the blind, and you come and visit all the sick. You are shelter to the weary, you are comfort to the crushed, you are heavenly assistance to the orphans.

You are the Mother of God Most High, and so we pray to you: hasten, O immaculate one, and save your faithful servants!

In you is all my hope, O Mother of God: place me under the wings of your protection.

All together: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.