

# *Pre-Christmas Moleben*



## Pre-Christmas Moleben

*This moleben utilizes the texts of the Divine Office from the days before Christmas and is intended to be celebrated during Philip's Fast.*

Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

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

People: Amen.

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
Who are everywhere present and fill 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 Lord.

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

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

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

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

Glory be 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.

People: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

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

**Invitation to Worship**  
**Psalm 94:6**

Come, let us worship the King, our God.  
Come, let us worship Christ, the King and our God.  
Come, let us worship and bow down to the only Lord  
Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

**Psalm 142**  
*Prayer in desolation*

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

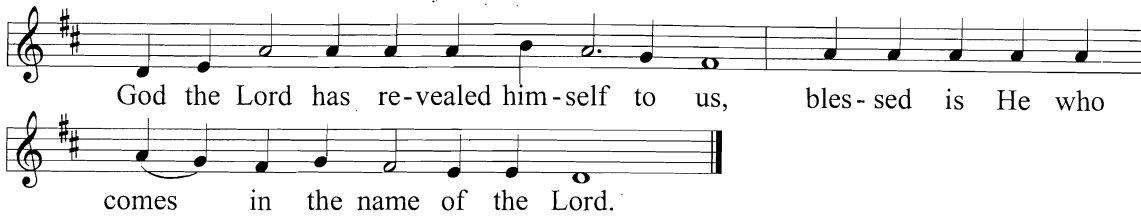
Glory be to You, O God! *(three times with bows)*

#### **God the Lord - Tone 4**

Stand

*The deacon (or priest if there is no deacon) sings the "God the Lord" once and the people repeat it. The deacon (or priest) then chants the verses. During the singing of the troparia, he then returns to the sanctuary.*

People:

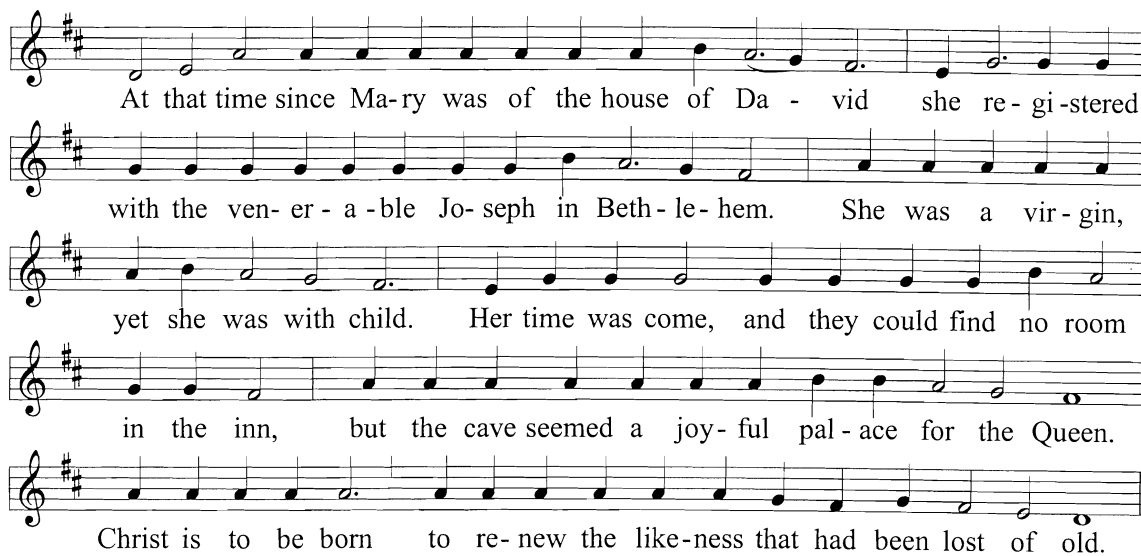


God the Lord has re-vealed him-self to us, bles-sed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord.

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

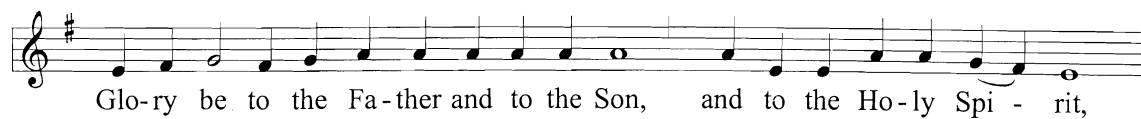
*As the troparia are sung the deacon (or priest) returns to the altar.*

### Troparion - Tone 4

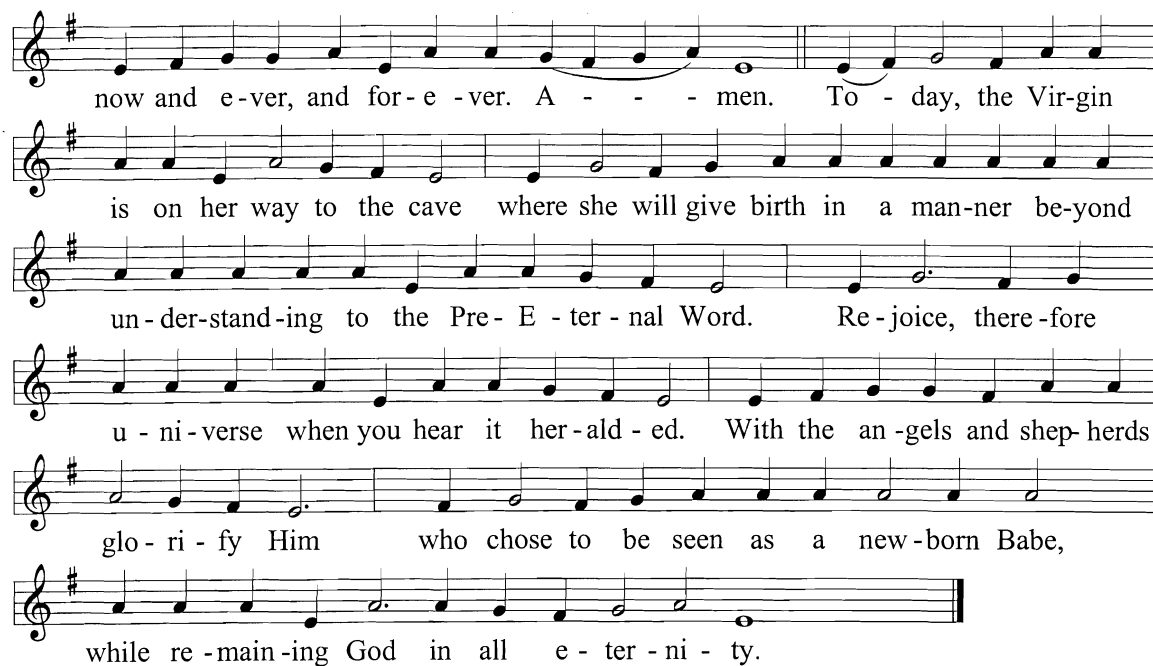


At that time since Ma-ry was of the house of Da - vid she re-gi-stered  
with the ven-er-a-ble Jo-seph in Beth-le-hem. She was a vir-gin,  
yet she was with child. Her time was come, and they could find no room  
in the inn, but the cave seemed a joy-ful pal-ace for the Queen.  
Christ is to be born to re-new the like-ness that had been lost of old.

### Kontakion - Tone 3



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit,



now and e-ver, and for-e-ver. A - - - men. To - day, the Vir-gin  
 is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a man-ner be-yond  
 un-der-stand-ing to the Pre- E - ter - nal Word. Re-joice, there-fore  
 u - ni - verse when you hear it her - ald - ed. With the an - gels and shep - herds  
 glo - ri - fy Him who chose to be seen as a new - born Babe,  
 while re - main - ing God in all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Small Litany

- Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.
- People: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.
- People: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: Remembering our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ, our God.
- People: To You, O Lord.
- Priest: For You, O God, are gracious and You love mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
- People: Amen.

## Magnification

### Refrain:

We mag - ni - fy You, O life - giv - ing Christ, Who for our  
sake was born ac - cord - ing to the flesh of the most pure Vir - gin  
Ma - - - ry.

*Repeat after each verse.*

### Verses:

1 Shout joy - ful - ly to the Lord all the earth, sing praise to His name;  
give to Him glor - - - ious praise.

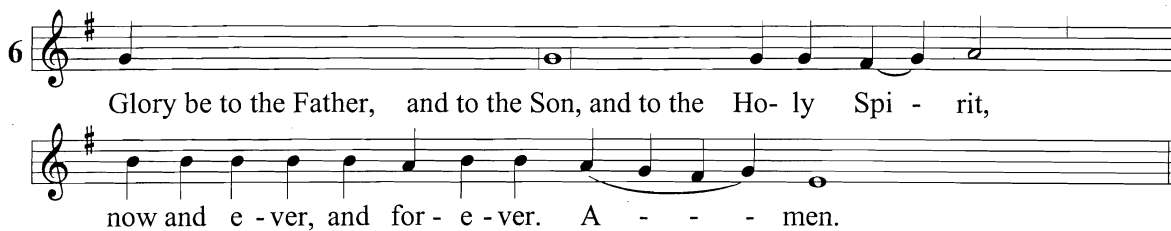
2 The Lord has sent de - li - ver - ance to His peo - - - ple.

3 All the kings of the earth shall a - dore Him.

4 Be - fore the day - star like the dew I have be - got - ten you. the Lord  
has sworn and He will not re - pent.

5 Great are the works of the Lord. His right - eous - ness en - dures  
for - e - - - ver.

6



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spi - rit,  
now and e - ver, and for - e - ver. A - - - men.

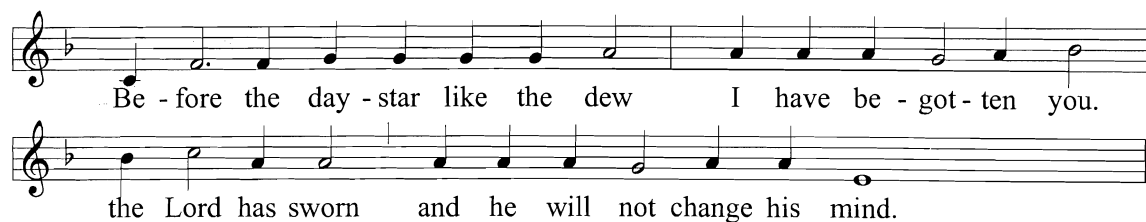
**Prokimenon - Tone 4** *Psalm 109[110]:3,4*

Stand

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be with all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!



Be - fore the day - star like the dew I have be - got - ten you.  
the Lord has sworn and he will not change his mind.

*Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.*

**Gospel**

*The temple is incensed.*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: 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.

People: Amen.

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

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

*Verse: Praise God in his holy place, praise Him in his mighty heavens.*



People: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.  
 Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.  
 People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Priest: Peace be with all!  
 People: And with your spirit.  
 Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to (N).  
 People: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.  
 Deacon: Let us be attentive!  
 Priest: *Proclaims the Gospel.*

*Suggested Gospels:*

*Week 1: Luke 1:24-38 (Annunciation DL / Birth of Jesus Foretold)*

*Week 2: Luke 1:38-49, 56 (Annunciation Matins / Mary Visits Elizabeth)*

*Week 3: Matthew 1:18-25 (First Royal Hour of Christmas / Behold the Virgin shall conceive)*

*Week 4: Luke 2:1-20 (Third Royal Hour of Christmas / Decree went out from Caesar Augustus)*

*Week 5: Matthew 2:1-12 (Sixth Royal Hour of Christmas / Visit of the Wise Men)*

*Week 6: Matthew 2:13-23 (Ninth Royal Hour of Christmas / Flight into Egypt)*

People: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

*A Homily may be offered.*

### Supplication

*Refrain (repeated after each petition)*

Come, O Je - sus, our Sa - vior, re - deem and save us!

*Petitions:*

Let heaven above rejoice, let the clouds sprinkle truth and let the earth germinate  
 and bring forth the Sa - vior!

Additional Petitions are sung in the following manner:



O Christ, the Savior, our true God, come to us and save us!

- O Christ, the Savior, \* incarnate Son of the eternal God, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* marvelous Fruit of the Holy Spirit, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* most holy Fruit of the most pure Virgin, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* source of our salvation, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* the bright Sun of the world, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* burning thirst of the Patriarchs, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* glorious vision of the Prophets, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* resplendent star of Bethlehem, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* bright apparition to the shepherds, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* abundant dew from heaven, \* come to us and save us!
- O Christ, the Savior, \* Who loves us with all your heart, \* come to us and save us!

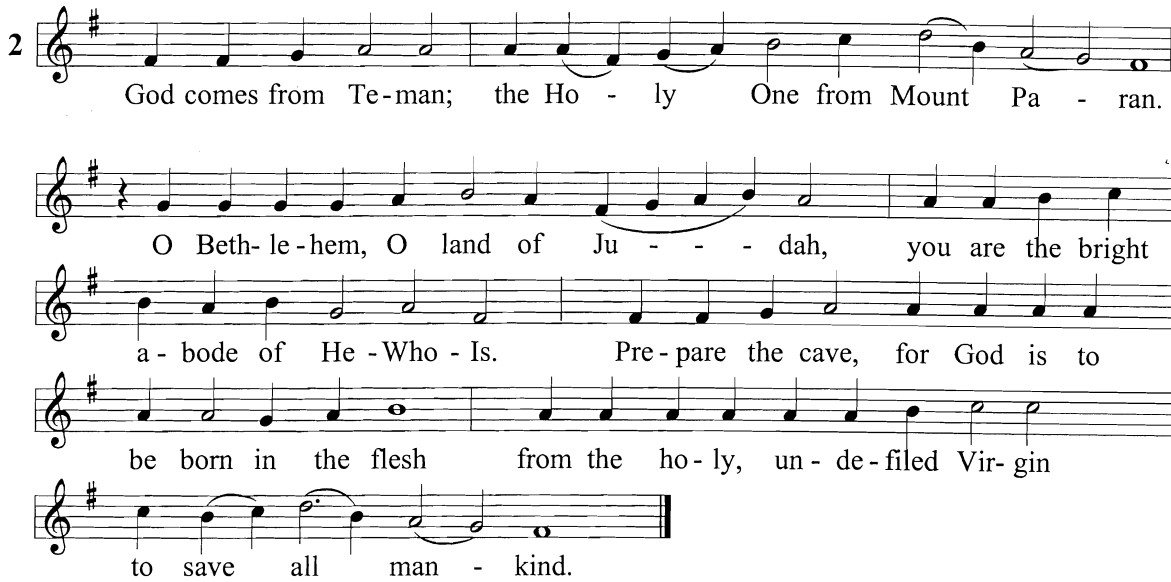
### Stichera

Samohlasen Tone 2

1

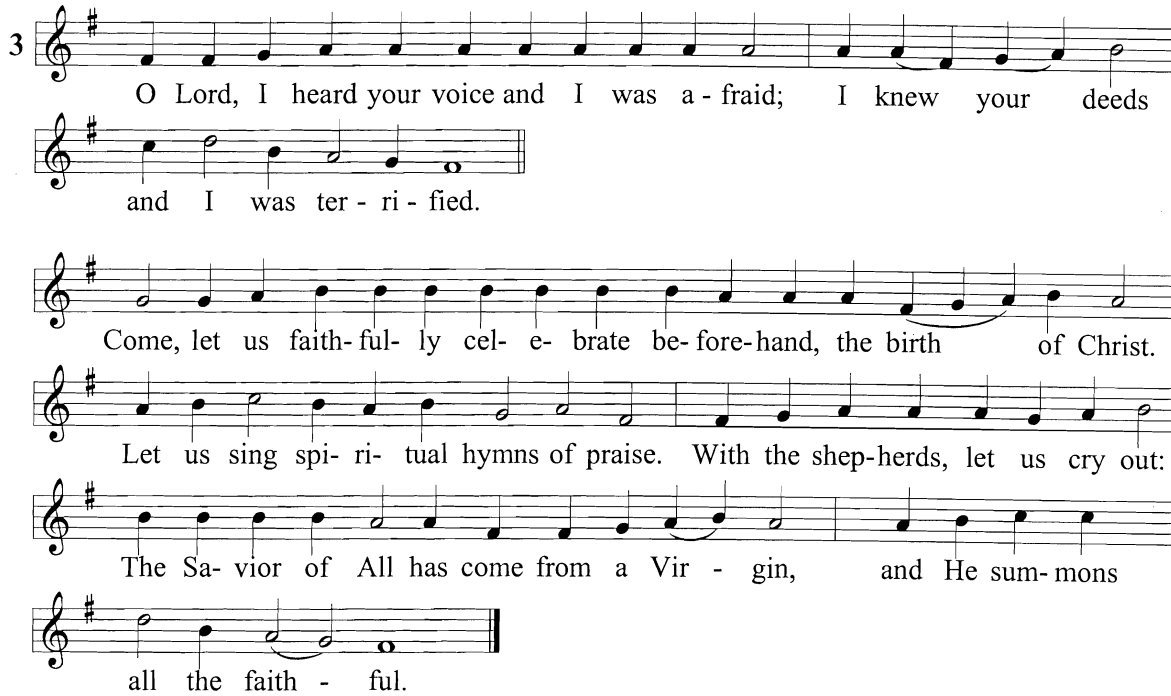
A series of seven staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is a single line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Be-hold, the time of sal-va-tion is draw - - ing near. O Cave, pre-pare your-self for the Vir-gin is com-ing to give birth. O Beth-le-hem, O land of Ju-dah, a-dorn your-self and be hap - - - py since the Lord will shine forth from you. O moun-tains and hills and land a-round Ju-dah, heark-en, for Christ is com - - - ing that He may save his cre-a-tion be-cause He is the Lo-ver of Man-kind." The piece ends with a double bar line.

2



God comes from Te-man; the Ho - ly One from Mount Pa - ran.  
 O Beth - le - hem, O land of Ju - - - dah, you are the bright  
 a - bode of He - Who - Is. Pre - pare the cave, for God is to  
 be born in the flesh from the ho - ly, un - de - filed Vir - gin  
 to save all man - kind.

3



O Lord, I heard your voice and I was a - fraid; I knew your deeds  
 and I was ter - ri - fied.  
 Come, let us faith - ful - ly cel - e - brate be - fore - hand, the birth of Christ.  
 Let us sing spi - ri - tual hymns of praise. With the shep - herds, let us cry out:  
 The Sa - vior of All has come from a Vir - gin, and He sum - mons  
 all the faith - ful.

Samohlasen Tone 1

4

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spi- rit; now and  
e - ver and for - e - ver. A - - - men.

Let us cel - e - brate, all peo - ple, the Fore- feast of the Na- tiv- i- ty  
of Christ, and rais- ing our minds on high let us go in spi- rit to  
Beth- le- hem; and with the eyes of our soul, let us look up- on the  
Vir - gin, as she has- tens to the cave to give birth to our God,  
the Lord of All. Jo- seph, when he be- held the great- ness of this  
won- der, thought that he saw a mor- tal wrapped as a babe in  
swad- dling clothes; but from all that came to pass he un- der- stood  
that it was the true God, who grants the world great  
mer - - cy.

## Litany

Sit

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

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: We also pray for our holy ecumenical Pontiff, N., the Pope of Rome, for our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan N., for our God-loving Bishop N., for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: We also pray for our civil authorities and all of our armed forces..

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Special petitions may be added here.*

Deacon: We also pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who have showed us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

## Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom!

People: Give the blessing!

Priest: O most holy Mother of God, save us.

People: 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 Mother of God, we magnify.

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory to You.

People: Glory be 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 Holy Mother, of the Holy and God-bearing fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of the holy prophet Daniel and his companions, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, (*of Saint (N.) whose day this is,*) and of all the saints, for He is gracious and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

*Booklet prepared using texts from approved and common sources.*

*For private use only.*

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