We worship Thine immaculate icon, O Good One, asking the forgiveness of our failings, O Christ our God;
for of Thine own will Thou wast well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that Thou mightest deliver from slavery to the enemy those whom Thou hadst fashioned. Wherefore, we cry to Thee thankfully: Thou didst fill all things with joy, O our Saviour, when Thou camest to save the world.
Priest: Peace be unto all.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader:

Prokeimenon. First Tone, (Psalm 91: 12, 1)

They that are planted in the courts of the Lord, in the courts of our God they shall blossom forth.

The Choirs:

They that are planted in the courts of the Lord, in the courts of our God they shall blossom forth.

The Reader:

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High.
They that are planted in the courts of the Lord,

In the courts of our God they shall blossom forth.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (Romans 16: 17-20).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader:

Brethren, I beseech you, mark them that cause divisions and scandals contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by fair and flattering words they deceive the hearts of the guileless. For your obedience is come abroad unto all. I rejoice, therefore, because of you; yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and innocent unto that which is evil. And the God of peace shall crush Satan under your feet quickly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader:

Alleluia of the Gospel. Grave Tone. (Psalm 48: 3, 1)
The Reader:
My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

The Second Choir repeats the Alleluia as above.

The Reader:
Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the earth.

The First Choir:


Priest: Peace be unto all.

Deacon: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glo - ry to Thee, O Lord, glo - ry to Thee.
Deacon: Let us attend!

The Lord said: Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in the Heavens the angels do always behold the face of my Father which in the Heavens. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, Amen, I say unto you, he rejoiceth more for that sheep, than for the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so, it is not the will of your Father that is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish. And if thy brother sin against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he hear thee not, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuse to hear them, tell it unto the church: and if he refuse to hear the church, let him be unto thee as the heathen man and the publican. Amen, I say unto you: Whatsoever ye bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever ye loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by my Father which is in the Heavens. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

And the Deacon says the Litany of Fervent Supplication:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Again we pray for our Archbishop and Metropolitan (N.), and for all our brotherhood in Christ; and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and oppressed, in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this sacred monastery (convent, parish), and them that dwell therein; for the peace and tranquillity of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God; the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren (mothers and sisters) who with diligence and fear of God do labour and minister; for them that are absent and afar off; for healing of
them that lie in sickness; the repose, blessed memory, and remission of the sins of all our fathers and brethren (mothers and sisters) gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere piously laid to sleep; for the deliverance of captives; and for our brethren who are about their tasks, and all that minister and have ministered in this sacred monastery (convent, parish) let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God who keep this holy feast, all pious and Orthodox Christians, our father and elder (N.) and his synodia, (commemoration of names), and all who celebrate this holy feast.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Again we pray that this sacred monastery (convent, parish,) and every city and countryside may be preserved from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, and the invasion of aliens, civil war and sudden death; and that our good and man-befriending God may be gracious, favourable and mild, that He may turn away all wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from His righteous threatening, which

Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

O Thou Who desirdest not the death of sinners, but rather awaitest their conversion and repentance, convert all apostates to Thy holy Church, we beseech Thee, O compassionate Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

O Thou Who hast ordered this world for Thy glory, so arrange that those adverse to Thy Word may be converted and together with all those faithful to the true Faith and piety, may glorify Thee, our God, we beseech thee, O Omnipotent Creator, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

O Thou Who hast given us Thy commandment to love Thee, our God, and our neighbour, grant that hate, enmities, injuries, corruption, breach of oaths and other wickedness cease, but that true love may reign in our hearts; we beseech Thee, our Saviour, hearken, and graciously have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Again we pray also that the Lord God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir:

Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

Hear us, O God our Saviour, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of them that be far off at sea; and be gracious, be gracious unto us, O Master, and unto our sins, and have mercy upon us; for Thou art a merciful and man-befriending God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
O Most High God, the Master and Fashioner of all creation, Who fillest all things with Thy majesty and upholdest them by Thy power: we, who are unworthy, offer thanks to Thee, our most generous Lord, for that Thou dost not turn away from us because of our iniquities, but rather dost anticipate our needs with Thy bounties. Thou hast sent Thine Only-begotten Son for our deliverance and didst declare Thine immeasurable condescension to the race of man, that with desire Thou desirest and awaitest that we should be converted to Thee and be saved. In condescending to the infirmities of our nature, Thou dost strengthen us with the omnipotent grace of Thy Holy Spirit; dost comfort us with salutary faith and the perfect hope of eternal goodness; and, guiding Thine elect to the Sion on high, keepest them as the apple of Thine eye. We confess, O Lord, Thy compassion and Thy great and incomparable love for mankind. But seeing our manifold stumblings, we earnestly beseech Thee, O all-gracious Lord: Look upon Thy Church and behold, that though we have joyfully received Thy Gospel of salvation, yet the thorns of vanity and passion have allowed it to bear little fruit in some, and to be fruitless in others; and, following the increase of iniquity, some by heresies, others through schism oppose Thine evangelical truth, abandon Thy heritage, reject Thy grace, and subject themselves to the judgment of Thine all-holy Word. O most compassionate and omnipotent Lord, Who art not wrathful to the end: Thy Church, looking to the Author and Finisher of our salvation, Jesus Christ, beseecheth Thee, be merciful, be merciful unto us; establish us in the right Faith by Thy power; illumine with Thy divine light the rational eyes of the those who have strayed, that they may comprehend Thy truth; soften their bitterness and open their hearing, that they may recognize Thy voice and turn to Thee, our Saviour. Correct, O Lord, the perverseness and lives of those dissonant with Christian piety; grant that we all live a holy and blameless life; and that saving faith take root and remain fruitful in our hearts. Turn not away Thy countenance from us, O Lord; show us the joy of our salvation; grant, O Lord, unto the pastors of Thy Church both a holy zeal and solicitude for the salvation and conversion of those who have gone astray, temper them with the spirit of the Gospel; that all being guided by Thee, we may arrive where the perfection of faith, the fulness of hope and true love abound, and there with the choirs of the purest heavenly hosts may glorify Thee, our Lord, the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit, unto ages of ages.
Then the Symbol of Faith is recited by all the faithful together.

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten; begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; being of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from the Heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; And arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; And ascended into the Heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end; And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets; In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the age to come. Amen.

Deacon: This is the Apostolic Faith, this is the Faith of the Fathers, this is the Orthodox Faith, this Faith hath confirmed the universe.

Then we chant, thrice, in Grave Tone, the Great Prokeimenon:

After this, we proceed back into the Church for the remainder of the Vespers, and we chant the Dismissal Hymn We worship Thine immaculate icon as we return.