

# Moleben of Thanksgiving

*Deacon:* Bless, Master.

*Priest:* Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

*People:* **O Heavenly King,  
the Comforter, the Spirit of truth,  
who art everywhere present and fillest all things;  
Treasury of blessings,  
and Giver of life:  
Come and abide in us,  
and cleanse us from every impurity,  
and save our souls, O Good One.**

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: Have mercy on us.

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Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: Have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

Lord, cleanse us from our sins.

Master, pardon our transgressions.

Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy 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 unto ages of ages. 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, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come! Let us worship God, our King!

Come! Let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!  
Come! Let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

**Psalm 117 [118]**

- Reader:* <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
for His mercy endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the house of Israel say that He is good;  
for His mercy endures forever!
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say, that He is good;  
for His mercy endures forever!
- <sup>4</sup> Let all those who fear the Lord say that He is good,  
for His mercy endures forever!
- <sup>5</sup> Out of my distress I called on the Lord;  
the Lord heard me *and brought me* into a spacious place.
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear what men can do to me.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord is my helper;  
I shall look *in triumph* on my enemies.
- <sup>8</sup> It is better to trust in the Lord  
than to trust in men.
- <sup>9</sup> It is better to hope in the Lord  
than to hope in princes.
- <sup>10</sup> All nations surrounded me;  
but in the name of the Lord I withstood them!
- <sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side;  
but in the name of the Lord I withstood them!
- <sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees around a honeycomb,  
they blazed like a fire among thorns;  
but in the name of the Lord I withstood them!
- <sup>13</sup> I was pushed hard, overturned so that I was falling,  
but the Lord supported me.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup> The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
is in the tents of the righteous.  
The right hand of the Lord hath wrought strength,
- <sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord exalted me,  
the right hand of the Lord hath wrought strength.
- <sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and declare the works of the Lord.

- <sup>18</sup> The Lord has chastened me sorely,  
but he has not given me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that when I enter through them  
I will give thanks to the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- <sup>21</sup> I will give thanks to thee that thou hast heard me  
and hast become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the headstone of the corner.
- <sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day which the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- <sup>25</sup> O Lord, save *us*!  
O Lord, give *us* success!
- <sup>26</sup> Blessed be he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- <sup>27</sup> God is the Lord  
and has revealed Himself to us.  
Arrange the feast decked with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar!
- <sup>28</sup> Thou art my God, and I will give thanks to thee;  
thou art my God, I will extol thee.  
I will give thanks to thee, for thou hast heard me  
and became my salvation.
- <sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
for His mercy endures forever.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

### At the Great Litany

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For our Metropolitan the Most Blessed Tikhon, for our Archbishop, the Most Reverend Benjamin, for the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For this country, its President, civil authorities, armed forces, and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For this city (*or* village, *or* holy habitation), for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** That He will graciously accept on His heavenly altar this present prayer of thanksgiving from us, His unworthy servants, and in His compassion have mercy on us, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** That He will not despise the thanksgiving of us, His unprofitable servants, which we offer with humble hearts for the blessings we have received from Him, but rather accept it as sweet-smelling incense, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** That He will listen to the prayers of us unworthy servants and regard the good intentions and desires of His faithful, and in His bounty always bless His Church, speedily answering the prayers of His people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

**Deacon:** That He will deliver His Holy Church, and His servants the people of this land, and every one of us from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, and

from all enemies both visible and invisible, blessing His people with health, long life, and peace, surrounding us with His heavenly host, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* **To thee, O Lord.**

*Priest, exclamation:* For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* **Amen.**

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

*Psalm 117 [118]: 27a, 26a; 1; 11; 17; 22 - 23.*

*Deacon:* God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!

*Deacon, verse:* <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
for His mercy endures forever.

*Choir:* **God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!**

*Deacon, verse:* <sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side;  
but in the name of the Lord I withstood them!

*Choir:* **God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!**

*Deacon, verse:* <sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and declare the works of the Lord.

*Choir:* **God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!**

*Deacon, verse:* <sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the *headstone* of the corner.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

*Choir:* **God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.**

**Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!**

### **Troparion, Thanksgiving - Tone 4**

We Thine unworthy servants, O Lord,  
grateful for the blessings Thou hast given unto us,  
always praise, bless, and thankfully glorify Thy loving-kindness,

crying with love and humble submissiveness:  
O Savior and Benefactor, glory to thee.

*verse: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;*

### **Kontakion, Thanksgiving - Tone 3**

Freely Thou dost grant us rich blessings, O Master,  
though we are unprofitable servants,  
in all our needs we run to Thee;  
Thou dost shower us with many gifts!  
Now we thank Thee with all our heart.  
We glorify Thee, our Creator and Defender!  
We cry to Thee from the depths of our soul:  
Glory to thee, O God, most bountiful!

*verse: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### **Theotokion, Thanksgiving - Tone 3**

O Mother of God, help of Christians,  
thou hast favored us with thy protection!  
We thy servants gratefully cry out to thee:  
Rejoice! O Most Pure Virgin, Theotokos!  
By thy prayers deliver us from every calamity,  
for thou art a speedy helper in times of trouble.

*But if the service of thanksgiving is celebrated during the feast and after-feast of the Entry, we sing the Troparion of the Entry instead of the Theotokion:*

### **Troparion, Entry - Tone 4**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice  
and sing to her://  
"Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!"

*Here we may add the Akathist of Thanksgiving:*

## **The Akathist Hymn: "Glory to God for All Things" or the Akathist of Thanksgiving**

*This Akathist, also called the "Akathist of Thanksgiving," was composed Orthodox Russian clergy in the GULag. The title "Glory to God for all things" is from the famous words of*

*Saint John Chrysostom as he was dying in exile. It is a song of praise from amidst the most terrible sufferings. It was once thought to have been composed by Protopresbyter Gregory Petrov shortly before his death in a prison camp, but it is now thought that the Akathist was composed by Metropolitan Tryphon of Dmitrov (in the world, Boris Petrovich Turkestanov), and found in the effects of Fr. Gregory Petrov after his death in 1942.*

### **Kontakion 1**

O Everlasting King,  
 Thy will for our salvation is full of power.  
 Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life.  
 We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen,  
 for eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be.  
 Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come.  
 Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Ikos 1**

I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Thine angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now Thy love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity; from birth until now the generous gifts of Thy providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give Thee thanks, with all who have come to know Thee, who call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee for calling me into being.  
 Glory to Thee, showing me the beauty of the universe.  
 Glory to Thee, spreading out before me heaven and earth  
     like the pages in a book of eternal wisdom.  
 Glory to Thee for Thine eternity in this fleeting world.  
 Glory to Thee for Thy mercies, seen and unseen.  
 Glory to Thee through every sigh of my sorrow.  
 Glory to Thee for every step of my life's journey,  
     for every moment of glory.  
 Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 2**

O Lord, how lovely it is to be Thy guest. Breeze full of scents; mountains reaching to the skies; waters like boundless mirrors, reflecting the sun's golden rays and the scudding clouds. All nature murmurs mysteriously, breathing the depth of tenderness. Birds and beasts of the forest bear the imprint of Thy love. Blessed is mother earth, with her fleeting loveliness, which wakens our yearning for happiness that will last for ever, in the land where, amid beauty that grows

not old, the cry rings out: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 2**

Thou hast brought me into life as into an enchanted paradise. We have seen the sky like a chalice of deepest blue, where in the azure heights the birds are singing. We have listened to the soothing murmur of the forest and the melodious music of the streams. We have tasted fruit of fine flavour and the sweet-scented honey. We can live very well on Thine earth. It is a pleasure to be Thy guest.

Glory to Thee for the Feast Day of life.

Glory to Thee for the perfume of lilies and roses.

Glory to Thee for each different taste of berry and fruit.

Glory to Thee for the sparkling silver of early morning dew.

Glory to Thee for the joy of dawn's awakening.

Glory to Thee for the new life each day brings.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 3**

It is the Holy Spirit who makes us find joy in each flower, the exquisite scent, the delicate color, the beauty of the Most High in the tiniest of things. Glory and honor to the Spirit, the Giver of Life, who covers the fields with their carpet of flowers, crowns the harvest with gold, and gives to us the joy of gazing at it with our eyes. O be joyful and sing to Him: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 3**

How glorious art Thou in the springtime, when every creature awakes to new life and joyfully sings Thy praises with a thousand tongues. Thou art the Source of Life, the Destroyer of Death. By the light of the moon, nightingales sing, and the valleys and hills lie like wedding garments, white as snow. All the earth is Thy promised bride awaiting her spotless husband. If the grass of the field is like this, how gloriously shall we be transfigured in the Second Coming after the Resurrection! How splendid our bodies, how spotless our souls!

Glory to Thee, bringing from the depth of the earth an endless variety of colors, tastes and scents.

Glory to Thee for the warmth and tenderness of the world of nature.

Glory to Thee for the numberless creatures around us.

Glory to Thee for the depths of Thy wisdom, the whole world a living sign of it.

Glory to Thee; on my knees, I kiss the traces of Thine unseen hand.

Glory to Thee, enlightening us with the clearness of eternal life.

Glory to Thee for the hope of the unutterable, imperishable beauty  
of immortality.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

#### **Kontakion 4**

How filled with sweetness are those whose thoughts dwell on Thee; how life-giving Thy holy Word. To speak with Thee is more soothing than anointing with oil; sweeter than the honeycomb. To pray to Thee lifts the spirit, refreshes the soul. Where Thou art not, there is only emptiness; hearts are smitten with sadness; nature, and life itself, become sorrowful; where Thou art, the soul is filled with abundance, and its song resounds like a torrent of life: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 4**

When the sun is setting, when quietness falls like the peace of eternal sleep, and the silence of the spent day reigns, then in the splendor of its declining rays, filtering through the clouds, I see Thy dwelling-place: fiery and purple, gold and blue, they speak prophet-like of the ineffable beauty of Thy presence, and call to us in their majesty. We turn to the Father.

Glory to Thee at the hushed hour of nightfall.

Glory to Thee, covering the earth with peace.

Glory to Thee for the last ray of the sun as it sets.

Glory to Thee for sleep's repose that restores us.

Glory to Thee for Thy goodness even in the time of darkness,  
when all the world is hidden from our eyes

Glory to Thee for the prayers offered by a trembling soul,

Glory to Thee for the pledge of our reawakening

on that glorious last day, that day which has no evening

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

#### **Kontakion 5**

The dark storm clouds of life bring no terror to those in whose hearts Thy fire is burning brightly. Outside is the darkness of the whirlwind, the terror and howling of the storm, but in the heart, in the presence of Christ, there is light and peace, silence: Alleluia!

#### **Ikos 5**

I see Thine heavens resplendent with stars. How glorious art Thou radiant with light! Eternity watches me by the rays of the distant stars. I am small, insignificant, but the Lord is at my side. Thy right arm guides me wherever I go.

Glory to Thee, ceaselessly watching over me.  
 Glory to Thee for the encounters Thou dost arrange for me.  
 Glory to Thee for the love of parents, for the faithfulness of friends.  
 Glory to Thee for the humbleness of the animals which serve me.  
 Glory to Thee for the unforgettable moments of life.  
 Glory to Thee for the heart's innocent joy.  
 Glory to Thee for the joy of living,  
     moving, and being able to return Thy love.  
 Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 6**

How great and how close art Thou in the powerful track of the storm! How mighty Thy right arm in the blinding flash of the lightning! How awesome Thy majesty! The voice of the Lord fills the fields, it speaks in the rustling of the trees. The voice of the Lord is in the thunder and the downpour. The voice of the Lord is heard above the waters. Praise be to Thee in the roar of mountains ablaze. Thou dost shake the earth like a garment; Thou dost pile up to the sky the waves of the sea. Praise be to Thee, bringing low the pride of man. Thou dost bring from his heart a cry of Penitence: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 6**

When the lightning flash has lit up the camp dining hall, how feeble seems the light from the lamp. Thus dost Thou, like the lightning, unexpectedly light up my heart with flashes of intense joy. After Thy blinding light, how drab, how colorless, how illusory all else seems. My souls clings to Thee.  
 Glory to Thee, the highest peak of men's dreaming.  
 Glory to Thee for our unquenchable thirst for communion with God.  
 Glory to Thee, making us dissatisfied with earthly things.  
 Glory to Thee, turning on us Thine healing rays.  
 Glory to Thee, subduing the power of the spirits of darkness,  
     and dooming to death every evil.  
 Glory to Thee for the signs of Thy presence,  
     for the joy of hearing Thy voice and living in Thy love.  
 Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 7**

In the wondrous blending of sounds it is Thy call we hear; in the harmony of many voices, in the sublime beauty of music, in the glory of the works of great composers: Thou leadest us to the threshold of paradise to come, and to the

choirs of angels. All true beauty has the power to draw the soul towards Thee, and to make it sing in ecstasy: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 7**

The breath of Thine Holy Spirit inspires artists, poets and scientists. The power of Thy supreme knowledge makes them prophets and interpreters of Thy laws, who reveal the depths of Thy creative wisdom. Their works speak unwittingly of Thee. How great art Thou in Thy creation! How great art Thou in man!

Glory to Thee, showing Thine unsurpassable power in the laws of the universe.

Glory to Thee, for all nature is filled with Thy laws.

Glory to Thee for what Thou hast revealed to us in Thy mercy.

Glory to Thee for what Thou hast hidden from us in Thy wisdom.

Glory to Thee for the inventiveness of the human mind.

Glory to Thee for the dignity of man's labor.

Glory to Thee for the tongues of fire that bring inspiration.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 8**

How near Thou art in the day of sickness. Thou Thyself visitest the sick; Thou Thyself bendest over the sufferer's bed. His heart speaks to Thee. In the throes of sorrow and suffering Thou bringest peace and unexpected consolation. Thou art the comforter. Thou art the love which watches over and heals us. To Thee we sing the song: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 8**

When in childhood I called upon Thee consciously for the first time, Thou didst hear my prayer, and Thou didst fill my heart with the blessing of peace. At that moment I knew Thy goodness and knew how blessed are those who turn to Thee. I started to call upon Thee night and day; and now even now I call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee, satisfying my desires with good things.

Glory to Thee, watching over me day and night.

Glory to Thee, curing affliction and emptiness with the healing flow of time.

Glory to Thee, no loss is irreparable in Thee, Giver of eternal life to all.

Glory to Thee, making immortal all that is lofty and good.

Glory to Thee, promising us the longed-for meeting

with our loved ones who have died.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### Kontakion 9

Why is it that on a Feast Day the whole of nature mysteriously smiles? Why is it that then a heavenly gladness fills our hearts; a gladness far beyond that of earth and the very air in church and in the altar becomes luminous? It is the breath of Thy gracious love. It is the reflection of the glory of Mount Tabor. Then do heaven and earth sing Thy praise: Alleluia!

### Ikos 9

When Thou didst call me to serve my brothers and filled my soul with humility, one of Thy deep, piercing rays shone into my heart; it became luminous, full of light like iron glowing in the furnace. I have seen Thy face, face of mystery and of unapproachable glory.

Glory to Thee, transfiguring our lives with deeds of love.

Glory to Thee, making wonderfully Sweet the keeping of Thy commandments.

Glory to Thee, making Thyself known where man shows mercy on his neighbor.

Glory to Thee, sending us failure and misfortune

that we may understand the sorrows of others.

Glory to Thee, rewarding us so well for the good we do.

Glory to Thee, welcoming the impulse of our heart's love.

Glory to Thee, raising to the heights of heaven every act of love in earth and sky.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### Kontakion 10

No one can put together what has crumbled into dust, but Thou canst restore a conscience turned to ashes. Thou canst restore to its former beauty a soul lost and without hope. With Thee, there is nothing that cannot be redeemed. Thou art love; Thou art Creator and Redeemer. We praise Thee, singing: Alleluia!

### Ikos 10

O my God, knowing the fall of Lucifer full of pride, keep me safe with the power of Thy Grace; save me from falling away from Thee. Save me from doubt. Incline my heart to hear Thy mysterious voice every moment of my life. Incline my heart to call upon Thee, present in everything.

Glory to Thee for every happening,

every condition Thy providence has put me in.

Glory to Thee for what Thou speakest to me in my heart.

Glory to Thee for what Thou revealest to me, asleep or awake.

Glory to Thee for scattering our vain imaginations.

Glory to Thee for raising us from the slough of our passions through suffering.

Glory to Thee for curing our pride of heart by humiliation.  
Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 11**

Across the cold chains of the centuries, I feel the warmth of Thy breath, I feel Thy blood pulsing in my veins. Part of time has already gone, but now Thou art the present. I stand by Thy Cross; I was the cause of it. I cast myself down in the dust before it. Here is the triumph of love, the victory of salvation. Here the centuries themselves cannot remain silent, singing Thy praises: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 11**

Blessed are they that will share in the King's Banquet: but already on earth Thou givest me a foretaste of this blessedness. How many times with Thine own hand hast Thou held out to me Thy Body and Thy Blood, and I, though a miserable sinner, have received this Mystery, and have tasted Thy love, so ineffable, so heavenly.

Glory to Thee for the unquenchable fire of Thy Grace.

Glory to Thee, building Thy Church, a haven of peace in a tortured world.

Glory to Thee for the life-giving water of Baptism in which we find new birth.

Glory to Thee, restoring to the penitent purity white as the lily.

Glory to Thee for the cup of salvation and the bread of eternal joy.

Glory to Thee for exalting us to the highest heaven.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

### **Kontakion 12**

How often have I seen the reflection of Thy glory in the faces of the dead. How resplendent they were, with beauty and heavenly joy. How ethereal, how translucent their faces. How triumphant over suffering and death, their felicity and peace. Even in the silence they were calling upon Thee. In the hour of my death, enlighten my soul, too, that it may cry out to Thee: Alleluia!

### **Ikos 12**

What sort of praise can I give Thee? I have never heard the song of the Cherubim, a joy reserved for the spirits above. But I know the praises that nature sings to Thee. In winter, I have beheld how silently in the moonlight the whole earth offers Thee prayer, clad in its white mantle of snow, sparkling like diamonds. I have seen how the rising sun rejoices in Thee, how the song of the birds is a chorus of praise to Thee. I have heard the mysterious mutterings of the forests about Thee, and the winds singing Thy praise as they stir the waters. I have understood how the choirs of stars proclaim Thy glory as they move

forever in the depths of infinite space. What is my poor worship! All nature obeys Thee, I do not. Yet while I live, I see Thy love, I long to thank Thee, and call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee, giving us light.

Glory to Thee, loving us with love so deep, divine and infinite.

Glory to Thee, blessing us with light, and with the host of angels and saints.

Glory to Thee, Father all-holy, promising us a share in Thy Kingdom.

Glory to Thee, O Son and Redeemer, who hast shown us the path to salvation.

Glory to Thee, Holy Spirit, life-giving Sun of the world to come.

Glory to Thee for all things, Holy and most merciful Trinity.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

*We sing Kontakion 13 three times:*

### **Kontakion 13**

O All-good and Life-giving Trinity! Receive this thanksgiving for all Thy goodness. Make us worthy of Thy blessings, so that, when we have brought to fruit the talents Thou hast entrusted to us, we may enter into the joy of our Lord, forever exulting in the shout of victory: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Then we sing again Ikos 1, and then Kontakion 1:*

### **Ikos 1**

I was born a weak, defenseless child, but Thine angel spread his wings over my cradle to defend me. From birth until now Thy love has illumined my path, and has wondrously guided me towards the light of eternity; from birth until now the generous gifts of Thy providence have been marvelously showered upon me. I give Thee thanks, with all who have come to know Thee, who call upon Thy name.

Glory to Thee for calling me into being.

Glory to Thee, showing me the beauty of the universe.

Glory to Thee, spreading out before me heaven and earth  
like the pages in a book of eternal wisdom.

Glory to Thee for Thine eternity in this fleeting world.

Glory to Thee for Thy mercies, seen and unseen.

Glory to Thee through every sigh of my sorrow.

Glory to Thee for every step of my life's journey,  
for every moment of glory.

Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

## Kontakion 1

O Everlasting King,  
 Thy will for our salvation is full of power.  
 Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life.  
 We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen,  
 for eternal life, for the heavenly joys of the Kingdom which is to be.  
 Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come.  
 Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age.

*And we continue with the rest of the moleben:*

### The Prokeimenon

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Reader:* **And to thy spirit.**

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* **The Prokeimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me.** *(Thanksgiving) (Ps 12 [13]: 6a)*

*Choir:* I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Reader, verse:* **My heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.** *(Ps 12 [13]: 5b)*

*Choir:* I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Reader:* **I will sing to the Lord,**

*Choir:* for he has dealt bountifully with me.

### Epistle

*§ 229: Ephesians 5: 8b – 21 (Thanksgiving)*

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*And the reader reads the title of the lesson:*

*Reader:* **The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.**

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

BRETHREN Walk as children of the light  
 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness, and truth),  
 proving what is well pleasing to God.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,  
 but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.  
 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light,  
 for all that is made manifest is light.

Therefore He saith: "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,  
 and Christ shall give thee light."

See therefore, that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,  
 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore be not unwise, but understand what the will of God is.  
 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is debauchery,  
 but be filled, rather, with the Spirit,  
 speaking to one another in Psalms and hymns and and spiritual songs,  
 singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

*When the Epistle is finished,*

*Priest:* Peace be to thee [that readest] .

*Reader:* And to thy spirit.

### The Alleluia

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* **Alleluia the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### Gospel

§ 85; Luke 17: 12 - 19 (*Thanksgiving*)

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*The people:* **And to thy spirit.**

*And then:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Choir:* **Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.**

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Priest:* AT THAT TIME JESUS entered into a certain village,  
 there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:  
 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.  
 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests.  
 And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.  
 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back,  
 and with a loud voice glorified God,  
 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.  
 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?  
 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.  
 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

*Choir:* **Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.**

### At the Augmented Litany

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

*Choir:* **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* Again we pray for our Metropolitan, the Most Blessed Tikhon, for our  
 Archbishop, the Most Reverend Benjamin, for priests, priestmonks, deacons,  
 and all other clergy and for all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for this country, its President, civil authorities, armed forces, and people.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; [for \_\_\_\_, ] and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God \_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

*We add these petitions:*

**Deacon:** We, Thine unprofitable servants, give thanks to Thee with fear and trembling, O Lord, our Savior and Master, for Thou hast poured Thy blessings upon us abundantly. We fall down in worship before Thy loving mercy and praise Thee as our God, fervently crying to Thee: Deliver Thy servants from all calamities, and in Thy mercy, grant all our requests which are unto salvation, we beg Thee, Lord; hear us and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Thou hast mercifully listened to the prayers of Thy servants, O Lord; Thou hast shown us Thy tender compassion and love for man. Forsake us not in days to come, but fulfill all the good desires of Thy faithful people. Reveal Thy rich mercy to us, disregard our sins, and attain glory for Thy name, we beg Thee, Lord; hear us and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** May our thanksgiving be as sweet-smelling incense before Thy majesty, most merciful Master. In Thy love for mankind, always send down Thy rich blessings upon Thy servants. Deliver us from the assaults of our visible and invisible enemies; preserve Thy Holy Church; and grant all Thy people health, virtue, and length of days, we beg Thee, most bountiful King, incline Thine ear to our prayer, and speedily show mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Priest, exclamation:** For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, 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 ages of ages.

*Choir:* **Amen.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and bounties, whose mercy cannot be measured; and whose love for man is an unfathomable deep; with fear and trembling, we fall down in adoration before Thy majesty, unprofitable servants that we are.

We humbly thank Thee for the blessings Thou hast given Thy holy Church, to this nation, this parish, and all of us Thy servants.

We glorify Thee, we praise Thee, we sing to Thee, our Lord and Master and Defender;

we fall down before Thee and beg Thy boundless mercy,

As Thou hast graciously received Thy servants' prayers and granted them, so also deliver Thy Church and preserve this nation, this parish, and all of us Thy servants from every hostile assault.

Grant us peace and tranquility,

that Thy faithful people may grow in virtue and love for Thee, and may partake of all Thy benefits,

and so we will always offer thanksgiving to Thee,

together with Thine Unoriginate Father,

and Thy most holy, and good and life-giving Spirit,

God glorified in three persons; and will joyfully sing to Thee.

*The priest exclaims in a loud voice:*

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O God our Savior, unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* **Amen.**

*The choir then sings the hymn of St Ambrose, bishop of Milan, the "Te Deum" (or the Great Doxology hymn from matins may be sung instead):*

**We praise Thee, O God,** we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.

All the earth worships Thee, the Father everlasting.

To Thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens and all the powers therein.

To Thee the cherubim and seraphim continually cry aloud,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.

The glorious choir of the Apostles praise Thee.

The noble fellowship of the prophets praise Thee.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise Thee.

The holy Church throughout the world confesses Thee:

O Father of infinite majesty;

Thine honorable, true and only Son;

and the Holy Spirit the Comforter.

**Thou** art the King of glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When Thou didst come to deliver man, Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

Thou didst overcome the sting of death,

and open to believers the kingdom of heaven.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.

We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore beseech Thee, to help Thy servants,

whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy saints in everlasting glory.

**O Lord**, save Thy people and bless thine inheritance.

Govern them and exalt them for ever.

Day by day we bless Thee; and praise Thy name forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have placed our hope in Thee.

In Thee, O Lord, have I trusted; let me not be confounded forever. Amen.

### Dismissal

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Priest:* Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

*Choir:* **More honorable than the Cherubim**

**and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim,**

**Without corruption thou gavest birth to God, the Word.**

**True Theotokos, we magnify thee.**

*Priest:* Glory to thee, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to thee.

*Choir:* **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

**now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

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

**Father, Bless.**

*And the dismissal.*

### **A Sermon for Thanksgiving by Fr Alexander Schmemmann**

*Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann, the late Dean of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the last time on Thanksgiving Day 1983. Two weeks later, on December 13, he fell asleep in the Lord. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Father Alexander took from his pocket a short written sermon, in the form of a prayer, which he proceeded to read. This was uncharacteristic of Father Alexander, since he never wrote his liturgical homilies, but delivered them extemporaneously. These were his words, which proved to be the last ever spoken by him from the ambo in Church.*

#### **Thank you, O Lord!**

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the "one thing needed;" Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to Worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.