

SERVICE OF THE LITTLE CANON OF SUPPLICATION TO THE MOST HOLY MOTHER  
OF GOD

(based on the translation by the ever-memorable Archimandrite Ephraim Lash)

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.  
Amen

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.(x3)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.  
Lord have mercy.(x3)

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.Amen.

Lord have mercy.(x12)

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

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Then at once the following Psalm.

### Psalm 142

Lord, hear my prayer; in your truth give ear to my supplication, and in your justice hear me. Do not enter into judgement with your servant, for in your sight no one living can be justified. For the enemy pursued my soul; humbled my life to the ground; made me dwell in darkness, like those for ever dead. My spirit in me grew weary, and my heart was troubled within me. I remembered days of old; I meditated on all your works. I made the works of your hands my meditation. I stretched out my hands towards you; my soul thirsted for you like a waterless land. Hear me swiftly, O Lord; my spirit has failed. Do not turn your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Make me hear of your mercy in the morning, for I have hoped in you. Make known to me the way in which I should walk, for to you I have lifted up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, Lord; I have run to you for shelter. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your good Spirit will guide me in an upright land. For your name's sake, O Lord, you will give me life. In your justice you will bring my soul out of trouble; in your mercy slay my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am your servant.

After the Psalm we chant the following:

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

(This is chanted after each of the following verses )

Verse 1: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his mercy endures for ever.

Verse 2: All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I drove them back.

Verse 3: This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

Then these Troparia.

Tone 4. Lifted up on the Cross.

Now to God's Mother let us humble sinners run in haste  
and in repentance let us fall down before her feet,  
crying aloud with fervour from the depths of our souls,  
'Sovereign Lady, help us now,  
have compassion upon us,  
hasten, for we perish  
from our many offences.  
Let not your servants go empty away;  
we have you as our only hope'.

Glory. The same troparion again

Both now. Then the following:

Though most unworthy, may we never by silence  
fail to proclaim your mighty acts and accomplishments,  
for if you do not stand to intercede for us all,  
Mother of our God, who then  
will preserve us in freedom?  
Who would have delivered us  
from such terrible dangers?  
O Sovereign Lady, from all kinds of threats  
you save your servants,  
may we not abandon you.

Then Psalm 50,.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, in accordance with your great mercy. According to the multitude of your compassion blot out my offence. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my wickedness, and my sin is ever before me. Against you alone I have sinned and done what is evil in

your sight, that you may be justified in your words and win when you are judged. For see, in wickedness I was conceived and in sin my mother bore me. For see, you have loved truth; you have shown me the hidden and secret things of your wisdom. You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be cleansed. You will wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear of joy and gladness; the bones which have been humbled will rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Do not cast me out from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and establish me with your sovereign Spirit. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn to you again. O God, the God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed and my tongue will rejoice at your justice. Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise. For if you had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it. You will not take pleasure in burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit. A broken and a humbled heart God will not despise. Do good to Sion, Lord, in your good pleasure, and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then you will be well pleased with a sacrifice of justice, oblation and whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

And we begin the Canon.

A Composition by Monk Theostiriktos, or, as some say, Theophanes.

Ode 1, Tone 8. The Irmos.

On crossing the water as though dry land,  
escaping from Egypt  
and its miseries in his flight,  
the Israelite raised his voice and cried aloud,  
'To our Redeemer and our God now let us sing!'

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

By many temptations I am held fast,  
and seeking salvation  
come for refuge in flight to you  
O Mother of God's own Word and Virgin,  
from my dread dangers and troubles now rescue me.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

The passions torment with their assaults,  
despondency's burden  
presses heavily on my soul,  
with the calm of your Son and God, pure Maiden,  
O All-immaculate Virgin, now give me peace.

Glory.

To God and our Saviour, you once gave birth,  
pure Maiden, I beg you,  
from dread troubles may I be saved,

for as I now run to you for refuge,  
it is to you that I lift both my soul and mind.

Both now.

In body and soul, sick as I am,  
consider me worthy,  
only Mother of our true God,  
of your godly providence and kindness,  
for you are good and the one who gave birth to Good.

### Ode 3. The Irmos.

You constructed the heavens' high vault, O Lord, and the Church,  
has you as its builder, do you establish me in your love,  
you are the pinnacle  
of all desires, and foundation,  
mankind's only Lover, of all who believe in you.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

As protection I set you and as the shield of my life,  
you gave birth to God, Virgin Mother, guide me as a pilot now  
into your anchorage,  
you the support of the faithful,  
source of all good things, you alone the one all-praised.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

I entreat you, O Virgin, dispel the strife in my soul,  
pacify, I pray you, the tempest of my despondency,  
for you, O Bride of God,  
gave birth to him who is calm's source,  
you gave birth to Christ, you alone are the one all-praised.

Glory to the....

Benefactor is he whom you bore and cause of all good,  
pour out then for all the abundant wealth of his benefits,  
power to do all things,  
is yours who bore Christ the mighty,  
powerful in strength is he, O greatly blessed by God.

Both now and....

Cruel illnesses test me, and passions most damaging,  
help me, I beseech you, O Virgin, aid me, all-blameless one,  
for I know you to be  
the inexhaustible treasure,  
never failing storehouse, of healings that have no price.

### Other Troparia.

Save your servants,  
from every danger, O Mother of God,  
for next after God  
we all fly for refuge to you  
as unbreachable wall and protection.

With kindness, all-praised Mother of God,  
look on the dire affliction of my body  
and heal the pain of my soul.

Lord, have mercy ( x12).

### Kathisma. Tone 2. Seeking things on high.

Invincible rampart, fervent intercession,  
the wellspring of mercy, refuge of the world, to you  
we all cry insistently,  
'Sovereign Lady, Mother who bore our God,  
hasten, from perils swiftly set us free,  
alone you are ever swift in our defence'.

### Ode 4. Irmos.

I have heard, Lord, the mystery  
of your dispensation, I heard and was afraid,  
I have meditated on your works  
and exalt and glorify your Deity.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

I entreat you, O Bride of God,  
still my passions' tumult, the tempest of my faults,  
still the raging turmoil in my soul;  
you who brought to birth my pilot and my Lord.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

As I call on you grant to me  
your compassion's depths, let me know your tenderness  
you who bore the Saviour of all those  
who now lift their voices and who sing your praise.

Glory to the Father....

All-Immaculate Virgin,  
we acknowledge you as the Mother of our God  
as we offer you our hymns of thanks,  
for your many gracious gifts which we enjoy.

Both now and....

As our hope and assurance,  
rampart of salvation which none can overthrow  
we have gained you, highly honoured one,  
and from every trouble you deliver us.

### Ode 5. The Irmos.

Lord, enlighten us,  
with your ordinances and commands,  
and with your upraised arm grant unto us your peace,  
for you alone, O Lord, are Lover of humanity.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

Fill my heart, I pray,  
with your gladness and unsullied joy,  
Virgin most pure, the only Mother of our God,  
for you who gave birth to him who is the cause of gladness.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

Come, deliver us  
from all dangers, Mother of our God,  
you bore eternal liberation, Maid most pure,  
the peace which passes all understanding came to birth from you.

Glory to the Father...

Dissipate the fog,  
Bride of God, the murk of my misdeeds,  
with the illumination of your radiance,  
you who gave birth to the divine and pre-eternal light.

Both now and....

Heal me, O Most Pure,  
heal the sickness that afflicts my soul,  
making it worthy of your kindness and your care,  
and by your fervent intercession grant me health, I pray.

### Ode 6. Irmos.

I pour out  
my supplication to the Lord,  
and to him I shall declare my afflictions,  
for, see, my soul has been filled up with evils  
and now my life has been drawn very close to Hell.  
Like Jonas I appeal to you,  
'O my God, bring me up from corruption!'

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

As from death  
and from corruption and decay,  
when to death and to decay it captive,  
he saved my nature held fast by corruption  
giving himself over into the hand of death,  
O Virgin, beg your Lord and Son  
from the malice of foes to deliver me.

Most holy Mother of God, save us! ..

I know you  
to be my life's sure guardian  
its protection and shield, O pure Virgin,  
you who dispel the great throng of temptations,  
and drive away assaults of demon hordes,  
unceasingly I plead with you,  
'From the passions' corruption deliver me'.

Glory to the Father.....

O Maiden,  
complete salvation of our souls,  
we have gained you as our rampart of refuge,  
as our relief in afflictions and torment,  
and in your light evermore we are filled with joy.  
O Sovereign Lady, save us now  
from the passions and dangers besetting us.

Both now and.....

In sickness  
and with no healing in my flesh  
now I lie upon my bed, yet I implore you,  
as you gave birth to our God and the world's Saviour,  
to him who frees us from sickness and malady,  
O good one, hear me, I implore,  
'From disease's corruption now raise me up'.

### Other Troparia.

Save your servants,  
from every danger, O Mother of God,  
for next after God  
we all fly for refuge to you  
as unbreachable wall and protection.

Immaculate,  
who through a word gave birth to the Word  
beyond explanation in the last days,  
make intercession,



as you have a mother's freedom to speak.

People: Lord, have mercy (x12).

**Kontakion. Tone 2.**

Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame,  
unfailing mediation with the Maker,  
do not despise the voices of us sinners as we pray;  
but, in your love, be quick to help us  
who cry to you with faith,  
'Hasten to intercede,  
make speed to entreat,  
O Mother of God',  
for you ever protect those who honour you.

**Then the Anavathmi, the 1st Antiphon in Tone 4:**

From my youth up many passions make war on me: but you, O Saviour, help me  
and save me. (x2)

You who hate Sion, may you be put to shame by the Lord: for you will be dried up  
as grass by fire. (x2)

Glory to the Father....

By the Holy Spirit every soul is given life, by cleansing it is exalted, it is made  
bright by the threefold Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now.

By the Holy Spirit the streams of grace well up, watering all creation to engender  
life.

**Then the Prokeimenon in Tone 4. Psalm 44.**

I will remember your name throughout all generations (x2).

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

I will remember your name throughout all generations.

I will remember your name

Throughout all generations

The Reading is from the holy Gospel according to Luke. [ 1, 39—49.56]

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

(read in a normal voice, not chanted)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Juda, and she entered the house of Zachary and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For see, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

People: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **Tone 2.**

Father, Word and Spirit, Trinity in Unity, blot out the multitude of my transgressions.

Both now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Merciful One, blot out the multitude of my transgressions.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy; according to the fullness of your compassion blot out my offence.

**Tone 6. Having placed all your hope.**

Sovereign and all-holy one,  
do not trust me to protection  
which is merely human,  
but accept the pleading of your suppliant,  
anguish has hold of me,  
nor can I endure  
the hostile demons' arrows;  
no shelter can I find,  
no, nor place of refuge, wretch that I am,  
from every side I am assailed,  
and, save you, I find none that offers solace,  
Queen of all creation,  
Protection of the faithful and our hope,  
do not despise my entreaty,  
but take action for my good.

### Other Theotokia in the same Tone.

No one who has recourse to you  
goes from your presence put to shame and rejected,  
O Mother of God, pure Virgin,  
but asking for grace  
they receive gifts and benefits  
most advantageous to the plea they make.

For the afflicted, transformation  
and liberation for the ailing  
are you, O Mother of God, most pure Virgin:  
save your City, save us all.

To all those embattled, you are peace,  
you are calm to those tossed by the tempest  
the one Protection of the faithful.

Lord, have mercy (x12 ).

### Ode 7. Irmos.

The Three Youths from Judea  
who attained to the faith of the holy Trinity  
in Babylon of old,  
sang out as they trampled  
on the furnace's raging flames,  
'Blessed are you, O God,  
the God of our Fathers!'

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

With the will to accomplish  
our salvation, O Saviour, you made your dwelling place  
within the Virgin's womb,  
revealed her as the champion  
and protection for all the world.  
'Blessed are you, O God,  
the God of our Fathers!'

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

O pure Mother implore him  
who desires to grant mercy, the one you brought to birth,  
that they may be set free  
from faults and soul's defilements,  
those who cry out with faith and sing,  
'Blessed are you, O God,  
the God of our Fathers!'

Glory to the Father.....

You revealed her who bore you  
as a tower of safety, as incorruption's fount,  
salvation's treasure store  
and doorway to repentance  
for all those who now cry aloud,  
'Blessed are you, O God,  
the God of our Fathers!'

Both now and ever

As you bore Christ the Saviour  
for our sake, deign to heal from all sicknesses of the soul  
and weakness of the body  
those who with love and longing,  
O most pure, who gave birth to God,  
come close to you, to draw near  
to your divine protection.

### Ode 8. Irmos.

The King of heaven,  
whose praise the Angels are singing,  
all the hosts of the bodiless powers  
praise him and exalt him most highly to all ages.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

Do not despise those  
who beg your help, O pure Virgin,  
as they raise their song up in your honour,  
praising and exalting you, Maiden, to the ages.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

Unending rivers  
of healings you pour, O Virgin,  
for all those who him and extol and praise you,  
those whose songs exalt your Birth-Giving beyond language.

Glory to the Father...

You cure, O Virgin,  
all my soul's weakness and sickness,  
and the flesh's tormenting afflictions,  
so that I may sing of your glory, Highly Favoured.

Both now and....

The passions' onslaughts  
and the assaults of temptations  
you, O Virgin, repel and drive from us,  
wherefore we shall praise and hymn you to all ages.

### Ode 9. Irmos.

We who through you, O Virgin,  
have been saved confess you  
to be most truly the one who gave birth to God,  
with all the choirs of the heavens you we now magnify.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

Do not reject my weeping,  
tears that flow unceasing,  
for you, O Virgin, gave birth to our Saviour Christ,  
and it he who has wiped every tear from every face.

Most holy Mother of God, save us!

Come, fill my heart, O Virgin,  
fill my heart with gladness,  
for you received in his fullness the joy of all,  
and made the pain and the sadness of sin now disappear.

Glory to the Father...

O Virgin, be the haven,  
shelter and protection  
of those who flee to you, rampart unshakeable,  
may they have as their refuge, their gladness and their joy.

Both now and....

Dispel the fog of error,  
ignorance's darkness,  
and let your light's rays, O Virgin, illumine those  
who with devotion proclaim you the Mother of our God.

Heal one laid low and wretched,  
in a place of sickness,  
a place, O Virgin, of ill and of wretchedness,  
grant transformation from weakness and feebleness to health.

Then the Megalynaria,

It is truly right to call you blessed,  
who gave birth to God,  
ever-blessed and most pure, and Mother of our God.

Greater in honour than the Cherubim  
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,  
without corruption  
you gave birth to God the Word;  
truly the Mother of God,  
we magnify you.

Higher than the heavens is she by far,  
and yet more resplendent than the sun with its blazing rays,  
she who has delivered  
us from the curse's power,  
in hymns now let us honour  
her who rules all the world.

From the swarming multitude of my sins,  
both my soul and body are now weakened, they are both sick,  
O Most Highly Favoured,  
to you I fly for refuge,  
the hope of those who have none,  
grant me, I pray you, your help.

Mother of the One who redeemed us all,  
hear the supplications your unworthy household makes,  
be our intercessor  
with him, the One born from you,  
the world's true Sovereign Lady,  
become our Advocate.

Fervently and joyfully we now sing  
hymns and odes to you, the all-praised Mother of our God,  
with the Lord's Forerunner  
and all the Saints in heaven,  
implore your Son, O Mother,  
to show us pity now.

Let the impious' lips be bereft of speech,  
who do not worship this your icon, the all-revered,  
this which was depicted  
by Luke, the Lord's Apostle,  
the icon with the title,  
'She who points out the Way'.

The Megalynarion of the Patron of the Church.

In his struggle your holy martyr Alban,  
Gained the crown of life, O Christ our God.  
For strengthened by you and in purity of heart,  
He spoke boldly before the judges of this world,  
Offering up his head to you, the Judge of all!

Then

All you hosts of heaven, the Angel Bands,  
John, the Lord's Forerunner, the Apostles, the holy Twelve,  
Saints beyond all number,  
with our God's own Mother,  
make intercession for us,  
that we may all be saved.

Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us (three times).

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and for ever,  
and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon  
our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake. Lord,  
have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and for ever,  
and to the ages of ages. Amen

Our Father, in heaven, may your name be hallowed, your kingdom come; your will  
be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our  
debts, as we forgive our debtors, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us  
from the evil one.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on us. Amen.

### **Troparia of Compunction. Tone 6.**

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us; for we sinners, lacking all defence,  
offer you, as our Master, this supplication: have mercy on us.

Glory.

Lord, have mercy on us, for in you we have put our trust. Do not be very angry  
with us, nor remember our iniquities. But look on us now, as you are  
compassionate, and rescue us from our enemies. For you are our God, and we are  
your people; we are all the work of your hands, and we have called on your name.

Both now.

Open the gate of compassion to us, blessed Mother of God; hoping in you, may we  
not fail. Through you may we be delivered from adversities, for you are the  
salvation of the Christian race.

Lord, have mercy (x12).

While the Christians kiss the Icon of the Mother of God, we chant the following Troparia.

**Tone 2. When from the Tree.**

All those, loving Virgin, you protect,  
with your mighty hand, who in faith come  
to seek refuge with you;  
for we sinners, bowed beneath the weight of many faults,  
have no other who in our dangers and our afflictions  
is ever-present intercessor before God,  
Mother of God, the Most High,  
whence we fall before you, 'Deliver  
all your servants in every predicament'.

**The same melody.**

Joy of all who are afflicted,  
champion of all dealt injustice,  
the food for those who are in need,  
you, the stranger's advocate, support and staff of the blind,  
loving care of the sick are you, to all who are crushed down  
shield, defence and aid are you, the orphan's succour and help,  
Mother of our God the Most High,  
hasten, All-Immaculate, hasten,  
hear our prayer, deliver all your servants.

**Tone 8.**

Accept the pleadings  
of your servants, O Lady,  
and rescue us from every constraint and affliction.

**Tone 2.**

All my hope I lay on you,  
Mother of God.  
Guard me beneath your protection.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Amen.