

The Small Paraclysis



to the
Most Holy Theotokos

Preface

In January, 1990 *The Services of Holy Pascha*, first of a proposed series of Byzantine church music tutorial programs, was published by this Office and met with acceptance. The present work is a companion volume.

This program has three components. The first is an introduction setting forth the origin and sense of the service. This should be duplicated in any participant's copies which you may prepare.

The second component includes the full text of the service with musical setting for all of the hymns included. These are principally the work of the late Archimandrite Cyril Haddad who prepared them for the diocese during his retirement.

As in the Pascha volume, the text is arranged as a duplication master from which 8 1/2 x 11" booklets can be put together as participants' texts. A new note is included here. Since the canon of the Paraclisis service is set to a repetitive metrical tune, it may not be necessary to include the musical notation for many of the troparia. Accordingly the text of these troparia, arranged in sense lines is duplicated in the appendix. By printing the music of the hirmoi and the texts of the troparia a participants' booklet smaller in size but not in content could be devised.

In this sense line arrangement, syllables with more than one note are followed by a corresponding number of dashes. Thus *all--* means that two notes are sung to this word. When one syllable of the word bears two or more notes, the dashes follow the syllable so affected. Thus *incarna--tion* would indicate two notes on *na* and one note on each of the other syllables. Syllables sung on a note held for two beats are printed in bold type. Thus in the phrase "Mother of God", the first syllable would be held. It is presumed that the last note in each sense line receives two beats, so these syllables are not specifically indicated.

The third component is a recording of the chants executed by Deacon Bryan McNeil of St. Joseph's parish, Lawrence, Ma. as a tutorial for cantors.

The most effective and pleasing way to chant the canons is to have the people sing the hirmoi and the refrains while the choir or cantors sing the troparia. Various cantors or choir members, alternately men and women, might sing these troparia in turn. In this way, not everyone would have to learn each troparion and yet as much of the service as desired could be held.

Rev. Fred Saato
Director of Educational Services
June, 1990

The Small Paraclisis to the Most Holy Theotokos



Educational Services
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The Small Paraclisis to the Most Holy Theotokos

Introduction

The all holy Mother of God is seen in the eyes of the Church as the image of the perfect Christian. She is the one in whom the mystery of God's transforming love - theosis, or deification, to use the Patristic term - has been brought to fulfillment. Her glorification as a total human being in spirit, soul, and body is the first fruit of the redemption wrought by her divine Son. In her the restored divine image and likeness shine most brightly among mortals. Her passage through the portals of death to the kingdom of immortal life stands as a guarantee for all Christians who nourish a hope of their own resurrection.

This is why the feast of the *Dormition of the Theotokos* (August 15) has always been seen as the chief feast of the holy virgin in the liturgical year. On it we remember that ancient tradition of the Church which proclaims that Mary already shares in the glory which awaits us all after Christ's second coming. On this day we celebrate the perfection of her life and also the promise of our own transformation.

The Byzantine Churches prepare for this feast with a two-week observance called the *Fast of the Theotokos*. One of the highpoints of this Fast period is the daily celebration of the Small Paraclisis contained in this book. In this service we recognize that as individuals we have a long way to go before our own transfiguration is complete. We ask the Mother of God, type of the perfected believer, to intercede for us in furthering our transformation. "Quiet the storms within me, dispelling the surge of depression," we pray. "Pacify the rise of my passions and quiet the stormy turbulence of my sins, you who have borne the merciful Lord." Recognizing her ability to intercede for us, we thus proclaim both our own weakness and the perfection of the miracle wrought in her.

The central part of this service is the Canon, a metrical composition originally based on the biblical canticles which form a part of the Byzantine morning service. Authorship of this Canon is

attributed to Theophanes the Hymnographer, a ninth century monk of the Monastery of St. Saba and later Bishop of Nicaea. It is sometimes also credited to Theostiriktos, a monk of the Symboulis Monastery in Bythina, near the Sea of Marmara.

Each ode of the Canon begins with an Hirmos citing the biblical reference and includes a number of troparia reproducing the same metrical model of the Hirmos. While most English translations have rendered the Canon in prose, there have been a few exceptions. The version here, prepared by the late Archimandrite Cyril Haddad, is a metrical translation, adapted to the musical setting by the Greek psaltist, John Sakellarides.

The order of the service as a whole is taken from the *Prayer Book* (Horologion) edited by Archbishop Neophytos Edelby, Metropolitan of Aleppo. Father Cyril's musical setting was completed by the Rev. Fr. Victor Samaha.

**The Small Paraclisis
to the Most Holy Theotokos**

Priest: Blessed is our God at all times: now and always and
forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

Psalm 142

Reader: O Lord, listen to my prayer;
in Your truth give heed to my request
and in Your justice hear me,
And enter not into judgement with Your servant
since of all the living none is just before You.
The enemy has pursued my soul,
he has crushed my life into the ground;
He has forced me to dwell in darkness
like those long dead.
My spirit was overwhelmed with grief
and within me my heart was troubled.
Remembering the days of old,
I meditated on all Your deeds,
I thought of the works of Your hands.
I stretched out my hands to You;
like a parched land my soul longed for You.
Listen to me without delay, O Lord:
my spirit has failed me;
Turn not Your face away from me
nor let me sink in the pit like the others.
Grant that I may hear Your love at dawn
for I have placed my hope in You.
O Lord, let me know which way I shall go,
for I have lifted up my soul to You.
Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies:
it is to You that I have fled.
Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God:
may Your good Spirit lead me over level
ground.

For the sake of Your name, O Lord,
 You will keep me alive;
 In Your saving bounty
 You will deliver my soul from oppression,
 And in Your loving kindness
 You will destroy my enemies,
 And bring to naught all those who grieve my soul,
 For I am your servant.

The Lord is God (Fourth Tone)

Cantor: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.



4. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us:



bles - sed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord.

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

People: The Lord is God...

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



The Lord is God and He has appeared to us:



bles-sed is He who comes in the name of the



Lord.

Troparia (Fourth Tone)



4. To the Mother of God let us poor sinners run



now di-li-gent-ly and fall down before



her in re-pen-tance; let us cry out from



the depth of our souls: O La-dy, in your



com-pas-sion come to our aid! Make haste,



for we are pe-rish-ing un-der the mul-ti-tude

of our sins. Do not turn a-way your servants
empty - hand - ed, for you are our on -
ly hope.

Cantor: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Now and always and forever and ever, amen.

4. We will ne-ver cease, O Mo - ther of God,
although un-wor - thy, to proclaim your po - wer.
If you no long-er in-ter-cede for us, who
will de - li - ver us from so ma - ny mis - fortunes?
Who would e - ver have preserved us free

un - til now? We shall ne - ver leave you, O

La - dy, for you always save your servants

from all tri - bu - la - tions.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in the greatness of Your
 love;
 In the abundance of Your tender mercies
 wipe out my offence.
 Wash me thoroughly from malice and cleanse me
 from sin,
 for I am well aware of my malice and my sins
 are before me always.
 It is You alone I have offended;
 I have done what is evil in Your sight.
 Wherefore You are just in Your deeds
 and triumphant in Your judgement.
 Behold I was born in iniquities
 and in sins my mother conceived me.
 But You are the Lover of truth:
 You have shown me the depths and secrets of
 Your wisdom.
 Wash me with hyssop and I shall be pure;
 cleanse me and I shall be whiter than snow.
 Let me hear sounds of joy and feasting:
 the bones that were afflicted shall rejoice.
 Turn Your face away from my offences
 and wipe off all my sins.

A spotless heart create in me, O God:
 renew a steadfast spirit in my breast.
 Cast me not afar from Your face;
 take not Your blessed Spirit out of me.
 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation;
 and let Your guiding Spirit dwell in me.
 I will teach Your ways to the sinners,
 and the wicked shall return to You.
 Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God,
 and my tongue shall joyfully sing Your
 justice.
 O Lord, You shall open my lips
 and my mouth will declare Your praise.
 Had You desired sacrifice I would have offered it,
 but You will not be satisfied with whole burnt
 offerings.
 Sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit:
 a crushed and humble heart God will not
 spurn.
 In Your kindness, O Lord, be bountiful to Sion;
 may the walls of Jerusalem be restored.
 Then will you delight in just oblation, in sacrifice and
 whole burnt offerings.
 Then shall they offer calves upon Your altar.

The Canon - First Ode



& The peo-ple of Is - ra - el, hav-ing fled from



E-gypt's cap-ti-vi-ty, crossed the sea



as through dry land; and so, they cried out in

ju - bi - la - tion: let us now sing to our

God and De - li - ver - er.

O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

& Sur - rounded by ma - ny temp - ta - tions, O

Vir - gin, to you I flee, to be sheltered

in your saving care, O Mo - ther of God the

Word, our Sa - vior, de - li - ver me from dis -

tress and ad - ver - si - ty.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



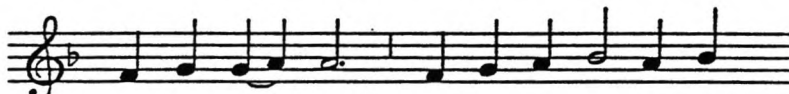
& My pass - ions up - set me with their assaults,



dis - cou - rage - ment fills my soul. Blessed Vir -



gin, O spot - less one, re - store tran - quil - ness to



my dis - turbed soul. Grant me the peace of your



Son, the peace of your God.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to



the Ho - ly Spi - rit.



♩ O Vir-gin who gave birth to Christ our God,



I ear-nest-ly call on you to de-li-



ver me from dis-tress. To you I come, ask-ing



for a shel-ter; it is to you that I



raise my heart and my thoughts.



Now and al-ways and for e-ver and e-



ver, amen.



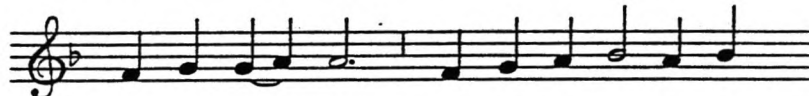
♩ O you, who a-lone are The-o-to-kos



and Mo-ther of the Good One, take a - way



from me all di-sease: di-sease of my soul and

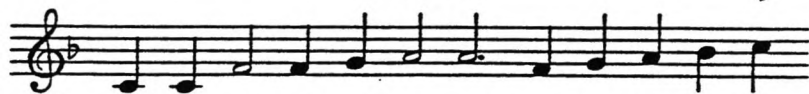


of my bo - dy, and make me wor-thy of



God's as-sis-tance and your care.

Third Ode



& O Cre - a - tor of hea-ven and its most lof-ty



man-sions, Buil-der of the Church on its ba-



sis, streng-then my love for You, O supreme



goal of our love. You are the strength of the



faith - ful and You are a-lone the good



Lo - ver of man - kind.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& I choose you as a shel-ter and a pro-tec-tion



for my life. O Mo-ther of God, O pure Vir-



gin, lead me to safe re- pose: channel of



all good things and firm sup- port of the



faith - ful, O you who indeed are a-



lone wor- thy of our praise.



O most ho- ly The- o- to- kos, save us.



& I be- seech you, O Vir- gin, qui- et the storm



in my soul and dis- pel the surge of my sad-



ness, for you, O bride of God, have gi- ven



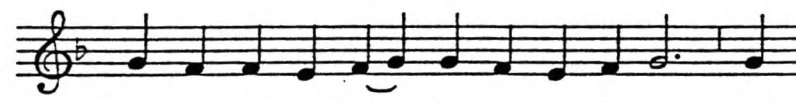
birth to the Lord: Mo- ther of Christ, the Prince



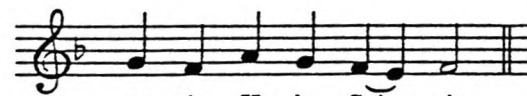
of peace, O you who indeed are a-



lone the all spot- less one.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and



to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.



& You who car - ried with - in you the Be - ne - fac -



tor of all and the Cause of ev - 'ry good fa -



vor, let His a - bun - dant grace spring forth to



all of us. You have the full - ness of



po - wer, since you've gi - ven birth to the



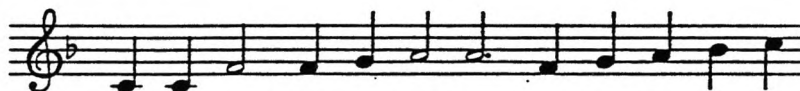
Christ, the al - mighty One.



Now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -



ver, a - men.



& I am struck down by sickness and by dis-tress-ing



pas - sions. I re - quest your aid, O pure Vir-



gin, hur-ry and help me now, for I know



well that you are a rea - dy trea - sure of



heal - ings per-fect and a-bun-dant, O



all blame - less one.

De - li - ver your servants from all dan - gers, O Mo -
 ther of God, for to you af - ter God we flee
 for shel - ter. You are our im - preg - na - ble
 for - tress, our in - ter - cess - or.
 O Mo - ther of God, wor - thy of all praise, look
 down with com - pass - ion u - pon the ills of my
 af - flic - ted bo - dy and heal the in - fir -
 mi - ties of my soul.

Synapte

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

People: Lord, have mercy (*three times, after each petition*).

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop N., and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, and salvation for the servants of God, the members of this blessed community present here, who are taking part in this service for the realization of their good intentions. Let us beseech the Lord for each and every one of them, for the benefactors of this holy church, and for us its servants.

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

One of the following petitions may be added according to the circumstances in which the Service is offered. We respond Lord, have mercy (12 times, alternately). If desired, the third and fourth of the above petitions may be omitted.

Ordinarily, if intentions are requested:

Again we pray for the servants of God NN.

For the sick:

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, and salvation for the servant of God N.: that the Lord God will save him/her from every sickness, physical or spiritual, and bless him/her with perfect health.

For those who have gone abroad:

Again we pray for the servants of God NN., that they may be protected from all danger and may abide in peace and health; that they may perform good works according to God's Commandments and be filled with His earthly and heavenly blessings.

For travelers by sea, air and land:

Again we pray for the servants of God NN. who are traveling by sea (air, or land): that they will arrive safely and securely at their destination and that Christ our God will be with them and protect them from all danger now and throughout the rest of their journey in life. For them let us say, Lord have mercy.


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

People: Amen.

Kathisma (Second Tone).

2 O fer-vent in-ter-cess-or and un-as-sail-a-
ble ram-part; O foun-tain of mer-
cy and re-fuge of the world: we ea-ger-ly
cry out to you: O La-dy, Mo-ther
of God, hur-ry and de-li-ver us from tri-
bu-la-tions, for you are a-lone
a swift in-ter-ces-sor.


Fourth Ode



& O my Lord, I have heard to-day of the mys- te-




ry of Your pro- vi- den- tial plan and have me-



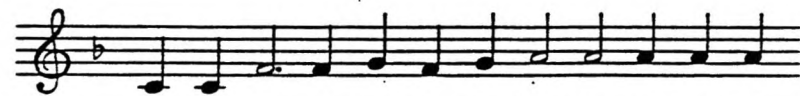
di- ta- ted on Your works: so I glo- ri- fy




Your awesome De - i - ty.



O most ho- ly The- o- to- kos, save us.



& Pa- ci- fy the surge of my passions and qui- et



the storm and tur- bu- lence of my sins; for you



are the bles- sed Bride of God and have gi- ven



birth to the mer - ci - ful Lord.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& You who bore the Com - passion - ate, the Sa - vior of



those who praise you, O Vir - gin: grant that I,



who put my trust in you , may en - joy the fullness



of your kind - li - ness.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and



to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.



& We re-joice, O all-blameless one, for the spe-cial



gifts you have gran-ted to us; so we sing



a hymn of thanks to you, whom we re-cog-nize as



tru-ly Mo-ther of God.



Now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -



ver, a-men.



& You who are wor-thy of all praise, our hope and the

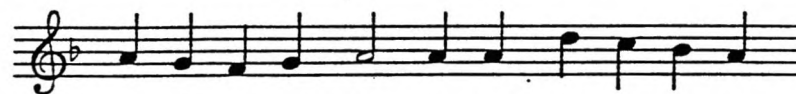


re-fuge of our sal - va - tion, our de-fen-

sive and un-shak-ing wall, grant us to be safe from
all ca - la - mi - ties.

Fifth Ode

& Give light to our hearts with your or - di - nan - ces,
O my soul, and thru the po - wer of Your ex -
LORD
ten-ded arm grant us Your peace, for You
are the Lo-ver of man - kind.
O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& Give me your pure joy, Vir-gin all pure and im-



ma-cu-late, you who gave birth to the Cause of



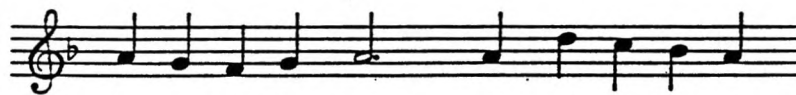
hap-pi-ness; and fill my heart with the



gladness of your Son, our God.



O most ho-ly The-o-to-kos, save us.



& Save us from dis-tress, O spotless The-o-



to-kos: you who gave birth to Sal-va-tion



without end, the di-vine Peace that sur-



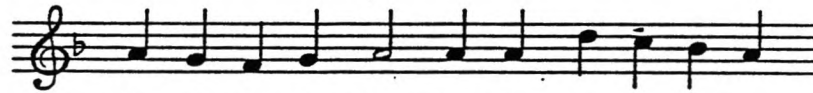
pas-ses hu-man un-der-stand-ing.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and



to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



& Dis-si-pate the gloom and the darkness of my



sin-ful deeds, and with your ra-di-ance fill our



souls with joy, O bride of God, who gave



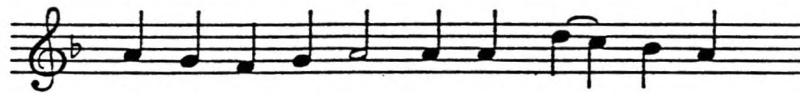
birth to the e-ter-nal Light.



Now and al-ways and for-e-ver and e-



ver, a - men.



& Heal the mi-se-ry of my pas-sions, O



spot-less one, and make me wor-thy of your



gracious care, and grant me health thru your



constant and un-fail-ing prayer.

Sixth Ode



& I pour out be-fore the Lord my hum-ble prayer



and to Him I ex-pound my deep sor-row.



My soul is filled with in-tense tri-bu-la-tion



and my poor life is too close to the low a-byss.



And so like Jo-nah I cry out: "O my God,



from cor-rup-tion de-li-ver me!"



O most ho-ly The-o-to-kos, save us.



2 O Vir-gin, be-seech the Lord, your dear-est Son,



who de-li-tered Him-self to a grim death



and saved my na-ture from death and cor-rup-tion,



to which I had been condemned by my ma-ny sins.



Be-seech Him that I may be saved from the hand



of my ter - ri - ble e - ne - my.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& O Vir - gin, I be - lieve that your fervent prayer



will pro - tect me and save me from dan - ger,



dis - pell - ing ev' - ry temp - ta - tion and cast - ing



out of my way all the snares of the E - vil One.



so I im - plore you without cease: make me free



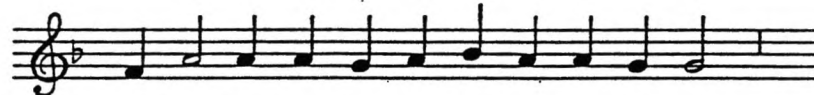
from my pas - sions and e - vil deeds.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son, and



to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



8. O Maid-en, you have been gi-ven un-to us



as a wall behind which we find ref-uge,



as a sure means of sal-va-tion for our souls,



as a re-lief from dis-tress and a pure de-light.



O La-dy, save us at all times from our pas-



sions and all tri-bu-la-tions.



Now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -



ver, a - men.



& Be - hold, now, how ill I am and sick in bed!



There is no heal - ing for my sick bo - dy!



I come to you and implore your great mer - cy,



for you gave birth to the Sa - vior of all the world.



De - li - ver me from my disease, rais - ing me



from this bed of in - fir - mi - ty.

De - li - ver your servants from all dan - gers, O Mo -
 ther of God, for to you af - ter God we flee
 for shel - ter. You are our im - preg - na - ble
 for - tress, our in - ter - cess - or.
 O Mo - ther of God, wor - thy of all praise, look
 down with com - pass - ion u - pon the ills of my
 af - flic - ted bo - dy and heal the in - fir -
 mi - ties of my soul.

Synapte

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

People: Lord, have mercy (*three times, after each petition*).

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop N., and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, and salvation for the servants of God, the members of this blessed community present here, who are taking part in this service for the realization of their good intentions. Let us beseech the Lord for each and every one of them, for the benefactors of this holy church, and for us its servants.

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

Again we pray for ... (*the special intention of the service, as on pages 18-19*)

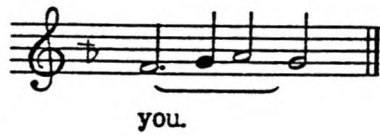
People: Lord, have mercy (*12 times*).

Priest: For You are the King of peace and the Savior of our souls and we render glory to You - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - now and always and forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Kondakion (Second Tone)

2 O ne-ver fail-ing Pro-tec-tress of Chris - tians
and their e - ver pre-sent in - ter - ces - sor be -
fore the Cre - a - tor, des - pise
not the pe - ti - tions of us sin - ners, but
in your good - ness extend your help to us who
call up - on you with con - fi - dence. Hasten, O
Mo - ther of God, to in - ter - cede for us, for
you have al - ways pro - tec - ted those who ho - nor



Anavathmi (Fourth Tone)

4. From my youth ma - ny passions fight a - gainst
me, but You, O my Sa - vior, help
me and save me. You, the e - ne - mies
of Zi - on, flee in your shame be fore the
Lord. As grass in the fire you shall
be withered up. Glory to the Father and to the

The musical score consists of six staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Son and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit By the
Ho-ly Spi - rit is every soul filled with life,
and through pu ri fi - ca - tion it is raised and
made bright by the threefold U - ni - ty in a ho -
ly mys - te - ry. Now and always and for - e - ver
and e - ver, a - men. Through the Ho ly Spi -
rit streams of grace o ver - flow to wa - ter the
whole cre - a - tion and bring it to the



full - ness of life.

Prokimenon (Fourth Tone)

Cantor:



4. I shall proclaim Your name from ge - ne - ra - tion



to ge - ne - ra - tion.

People: I shall proclaim Your name...

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

People: I shall proclaim Your name...



Cantor: I shall proclaim Your name *All:* from ge - ne -



ra - tion to ge - ne - ra - tion.

Gospel

Priest: Let us pray the Lord our God that we may become worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

People: Lord, have mercy (*three times*).

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

People: And to your spirit.

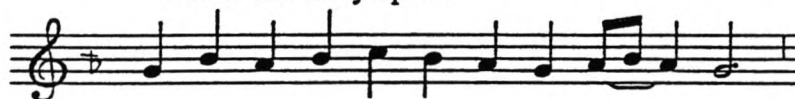
Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the evangelist Luke.

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

Priest: Let us be attentive! (*Reads Luke 1: 39-48, 56*)

People: (*after the reading*) Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Cantor: (*Second Tone*) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



2 O Fa-ther, O Word, O Ho-ly Spi-rit,



Tri-ni-ty one in es-sence, take a-way



the mul-ti-tude of our i-ni-quities.

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



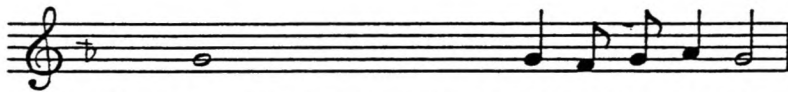
2 Thru the in - ter - ces - sions of the Mo - ther of



God, O mer - ci - ful One, take a - way the



mul - ti - tude of our i - ni - qui - ties.



2. *Cantor* Have mer - cy on me, O God in Your goodness;



in Your great ten - derness take a - way my



i - ni - qui - ties.




O most ho - ly La - dy, do not en - trust



me to a - ny human help, but re - ceive the



prayer of your ser- vant. Dis- tress is all



a- round me; no long- er can I bear the



darts of the de- mons: I have no




shel- ter and no place to hide. My foes



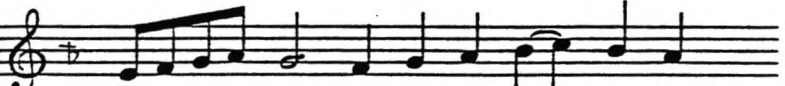
are on all sides; I have no re- lief



but in you a- lone! O Queen of the whole



world, the hope and the support of all the



faith - ful, turn not a- way from my



prayer, but do for me what-e-ver is the best.



2 No one of those who runs to you goes a - way



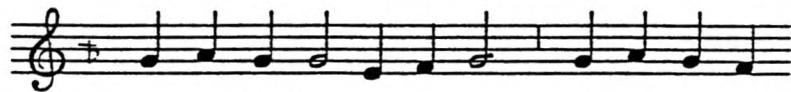
in con - fu - sion, O Vir - gin Mo - ther of



God. He seeks a fa - vor and he obtains



a price-less gift that sa-tis - fies his need.



2 O Vir - gin Mo - ther of God, the joy of the



af - flic - ted and the sal - va - tion of the sick,



save your peo-ple; save your com-mu - ni - ty,

O peace of those who are at war, O
qui - et har - bor of those who are bat - tered by storms,
O on - ly hope of faith - ful souls

Priest: O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Look upon Your world with mercy and compassion; raise the Orthodox Christians to glory and shower upon us Your abundant mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, through the prayers of the honorable and incorporeal Powers of heaven, of the honorable and illustrious prophet, the Fore-runner John the Baptist, of the holy and glorious Apostles worthy of all praise, of our Fathers among the saints and great ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, of our Father among the saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, of the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and just Ancestors of God Joachim and Anne, of St. N. (*the patron of this holy church*), of St. N. (*whose memory we celebrate today*), and of all Your saints: we beseech You, O most merciful Lord - listen to the prayers that we sinners offer You and have mercy on us.

Reader: Lord, have mercy (*twelve times*).

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

People: Amen.

Seventh Ode



& The young men of Ju - de - a, who were brought in -
to Ba - by - lon in cap - ti - vi - ty, had the
po - wer to tram - ple the flames of the fur - nace,
for they sang to the Tri - ni - ty: Bles - sed are
You, O our God - the God of our Fa -
thers.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& When You wan - ted, O Sa - vior, to ful - fill in Your



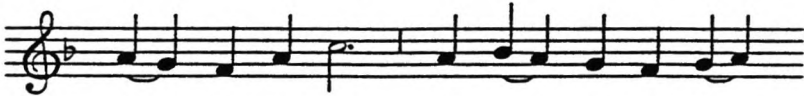
boun - ty for us Your sa - ving plan, then You



dwelt in the arms of the ho - ly Vir - gin Mo - ther,



gi - ving her the world to pro - tect. Bles - sed are



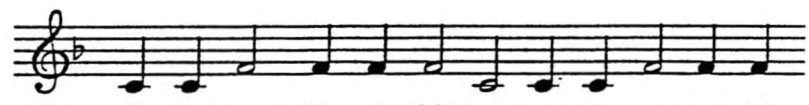
You, O our God - the God of our Fa -



thers.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& O most pure Vir - gin Mother, pray the mer - ci - ful



One to whom you have gi - ven birth so that we



may be freed from all sins and all un - clean - ness,



and cry out with un - sha - ken faith: Bles - sed are



You, O our God - the God of our Fa -



thers.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and




to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

& You es - tablished Your Mo - ther as a wealth of sal -
 va - tion, a flow - ing source of life, a fort -
 ress for pro - tec - tion, a door o - pen for pen - ance,
 for those who cry out to You in faith: Bles - sed
 are You, O our God - the God of our
 Fa - thers.
 Now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -
 ver, a - men.

& Grant, we pray, The-o - to - kos, to our bo-dies and
 souls re-me-dy from all dis-ease, for an-
 xious-ly we flee for sal-va-tion un-der your wings,
 O im - ma - cu - late Vir - gin, Mo - ther
 of our Lord and Christ, the Sa - vior of
 our souls.

Eighth Ode


& The King of hea-ven, to whom the or-ders of an -
 gels of - fer praise, ex - al - ta - tion, and wor-ship.




let us high-ly ho-nor for-e - ver and




e - ver.



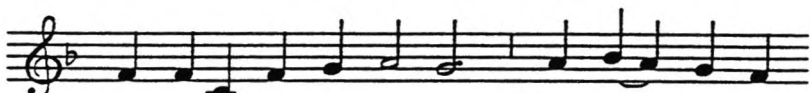
O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& Vir - gin and Mai - den, turn not a - way from your child -




ren, who with faith run to you for as - sis - tance.




They praise and ex - alt you for - e - ver and



e - ver.




O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& A flow of healings you pour u- pon those who hymn



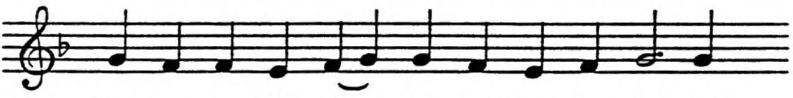
you with as - sur - ance, O all - spot-less Vir - gin,




praising and ex - alt - ing your birthgiving for




e - ver.




Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and



to the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



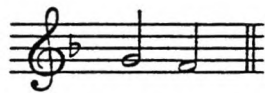
& O most pure Vir - gin, you heal my weakness of spi -



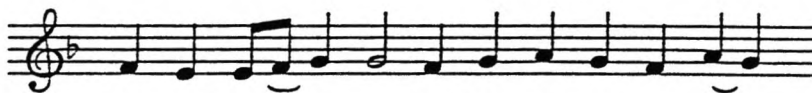
rit and the sick - ness of my wea - ry bo - dy;



therefore, gra-cious La - dy, I'll sing to you for



e - ver.



Now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -



ver, a - men.



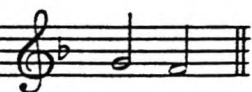
& O favored Vir-gin, you drive a-way the temp-ta -



tions and the sud - den at - tacks of my passions.



so I sing your prai-ses for e - ver and



e - ver.

Ninth Ode

& O Vir - gin im - ma - cu - late, by you we have

been saved; we shall proclaim that you are The - o -

to - kos; and with the hosts of an - gels

we glo - ri - fy your name.

O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.


& O Vir - gin do not des - pise how my tears are

flow - ing, for you are Mo - ther of Christ the Com -


pas - sion - ate, who wipes a - way from all fa - ces



the tears of weep - ing hearts.




O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.




& O Vir - gin pour in my heart ri - vers of re -




joi - cing, for you received all the fullness of



hap - pi - ness; and cast a - way, ho - ly Mo - ther,



the sad - ness of my sins.



O most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.



& O Vir - gin be a de - fense, a pro - tec - tive



shel-ter, a stur-dy fort-ress, a stronghold un-



sha-ka-ble, a source of joy and a re-fuge



for those who come to you.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and



to the Ho-ly Spi-rit;



& O Vir-gin, en-light-en us with the beams of



your light, and cast a-way from us our gloomy



ig-nor-ance: we who proclaim with de-vo-tion



that you are Mo - ther of God.



Now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -



ver, a - men.



& In this val - ley of dis - tress, o - ver - come by



sick - ness, I cry to you: in your mer - cy re -



store me. Re - place my weakness by po - wer,



turn my dis - ease in - to health.

Megalynarion



& It is tru - ly right to call you bless-ed, O



The-o - to - kos; you are e-ver blessed



and all blame - less and the Mo-ther of our God.



High-er in ho-nor than the che-ru - bim and



more glo - ri - ous be-yond com-pare than the



se - ra- phim, you gave birth to God the Word



in vir - gi - ni - ty; you are tru- ly Mother



of God: you do we ex - alt.

*The priest incenses the church, the icon of the
Theotokos, and all the people as we sing:*

Megalynaria



& Let us sing the praise of the Vir - gin more



lof - ty than hea - ven and more pure than



the shin - ing stars. Let us praise, O, faith - ful,



the Queen of all cre - a - tion who has de -




li - vered us from our an - cient curse.




& My whole bo - dy ails and my soul is sick be -




cause of my e - vil deeds and the mul - ti -




tude of my sins. To you I come for shel - ter,




O Ma-ry full of grace, O hope



of the hopeless, help me and save me.




& O La-dy and Mo-ther of the Sa - vior, re-




ceive now the humble prayers of your poor, unwor -



thy servants. In - ter - cede, we beg you,



before your Son, our Sa - vior, and be our



me - di - a - trix, Queen of the u - ni - verse.



& O Mo-ther of God, wor- thy of all praise, we



sing this hymn to you and ex - alt you



with joy- ful voice. Pray with the Fore-run - ner



and all the saints to - ge - ther that your Son,



our Re-deem-er, may have mer-cy on us.



& All you ranks and or-ders of the an - gels, and



you, ho- ly Forerun- ner, with the twelve a -



pos - tles of Christ and you, ho- ly mar - tyrs,



with the The - o - to - kos, pray ea - ger -



ly the Sa - vior that He may save our souls.



& May the lips of all he - re - tics be sealed be -



cause they re - fuse to bow be - fore your all ho -



ly i - con, which is fashioned af - ter the



bles - sed Ho - di - git - ri - a de - pic - ted



by the ho - ly Luke the a - pos - tle.

Trisagion Prayers

People: Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One,
have mercy on us (*three times*).
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, forgive us our sins;
Master, pardon our transgressions;
Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for
Your name's sake.
Lord, have mercy (*three times*).
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.
Our Father, who are in heaven...

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

People: Amen.

Troparia of Repentance (Sixth Tone)



6. Have mer- cy on us, O Lord, have mer- cy on



us. At a loss for a - ny defense, we



sin- ners of - fer this prayer to You, the Mas -



ter: have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



Lord, have mer - cy on us, for we have put our



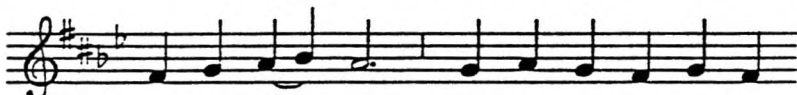
trust in You. Rise not in an - ger against



us. Re mem ber not our transgressions,



but look up - on us e - ven now in the depth



of Your mer - cy and save us from our e -



ne - mies. For You are our God and we are Your



peo - ple. All of us are the works of Your

hand and we constant-ly call up-
 on Your name.

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

Blessed Mo-ther of God, o - pen the por-
 tal of your deep mer cy to us who put our
 trust in you, so that we may not be brought
 to con - fu - sion, but through you may be
 de - li - vered from ad - ver - si - ty, for you are
 the sal - va - tion of the Chris - tian fold.

(In some churches, it is customary during the Dormition Fast, to sing the troparion and theotokion of the day instead of the above.)

Synapte

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

People: Lord, have mercy (*three times, after each petition*).

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop N., and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, and salvation for the servants of God, the members of this blessed community present here, who are taking part in this service for the realization of their good intentions. Let us beseech the Lord for each and every one of them, for the benefactors of this holy church, and for us its servants.

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

Again we pray for ... (*the special intention of the service, as on pages 18-19*)

People: Lord, have mercy (*12 times*).

Priest: Again we pray that this holy place (*or monastery*) and every city and country place may be spared from famine and pestilence, earthquake and flood, fire and sword, foreign invasion and civil war: that our loving and good God may be gentle, merciful and placable, and that He may avert from us all threa-

tening danger and save us from His just anger that hangs over us, and that He may have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy (*40 times*)

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

People: Amen.

Dismissal

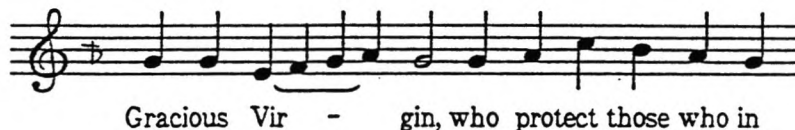
Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to You.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.
Lord, have mercy (*three times*).
Give the blessing, Father in the name of the Lord.

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

During the following hymns, the people venerate the icon of the Mother of God.

Troparia (Second Tone)





faith flee un-der your po-wer-ful arm, we



have none to plead for us be-fore God but



you in time of ad-ver-si-ty and



tri-bu-la-tion: we sinners who stoop down



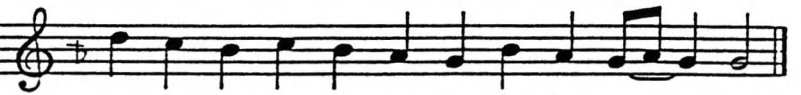
un-der the weight of our sins.



Mo - ther of God the Most High,



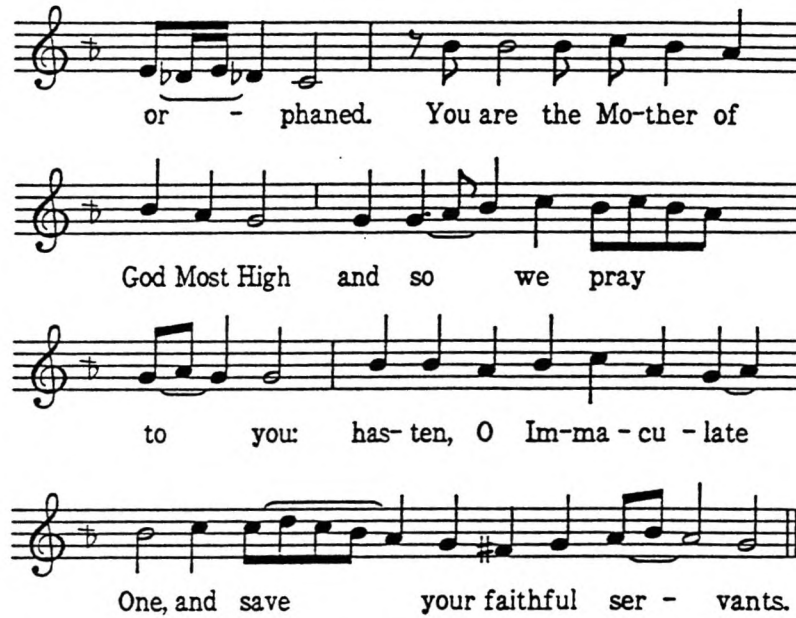
we bend our knees to you and be - seech you: de -



li - ver your servants from all kinds of trou - ble.

If there is need:

2 You are joy to the dis-tressed, you are strength
to the oppressed, you are food to those who sink
in - to des-pair. You con - sole all the
stran - gers, you sup-port all the
blind, and you come and at-tend all the sick.
You are shel-ter to the wea - ry,
you are com - fort to the crushed,
you are hea-ven-ly as - sis-tance to the



or - phaned. You are the Mo - ther of
 God Most High and so we pray
 to you: has - ten, O Im - ma - cu - late
 One, and save your faithful ser - vants.

And this:



2 All my hope I place in you, O The - o - to -
 kos: keep me un - der the wings of
 your pro - tec - tion.

(In some churches the exapostilaria of the feast are sung instead of the above troparia during the Dormition Fast.)

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.

Appendix

(The troparia of the Canon arranged in sense lines)

First Ode

Hirmos: The people of Israel...

Surrounded by ma--ny tempta--tions,
O Virgin, to you I flee,
to be sheltered in your saving care.
O Mother of God the Word our Sa--vior,
deliver me from distress-- and adversity.

My passions upset-- me with their assaults,
discouragement fills my soul.
Blessed Vir--gin, O spotless one,
restore tranquility to my disturbed-- soul.
Grant me the peace of your Son-- , the peace of your God.

Glory...

O Virgin who gave-- birth to Christ our God,
I earnestly call on you
to deli--ver me from distress.
To you I come asking for a shel--ter;
it is to you that I raise my heart-- and my thoughts.

Now...

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

Third Ode

Hirmos: O Creator of heaven, ...

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

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

Glory...

You who carried within you
the Benefac--tor of all
and the Cause of ev'ry good favor,
let His abundant grace
spring forth to all-- of-- us.
You have the fulness of po----wer,
since you've given birth to the Christ--, the almighty one.

Now...

I am struck down by sickness
and by distressing pa--ssions.
I request your aid, O pure Virgin:
hurry and help me now,
for I know well-- that you are
a ready treasure of heal----ings
perfect and abundant, O all--blame--less-- one.

Fourth Ode

Hirmos: O my Lord, I have heard ...

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

You who bore the Compassionate,
the Savior of those who praise you, O Vir--gin:
grant that I, who put my trust in you,
may enjoy the fulness of your kind--li--ness.

Glory...

We rejoice, O all blameless one,
for the special gifts you have gran--ted to us;
so we sing a hymn of thanks to you,
whom we recognize as truly Mo--ther of God.

Now...

You who are worthy of all praise,
our hope and the refuge of our salva--tion,
our defensive and unshaking wall,
grant us to be safe from all cala--mi--ties.

Fifth Ode

Hirmos: Give light to our hearts ...

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

Save us from distress,
O spotless Theoto--kos,
you who gave **birth** to Salvation without end,
the divine Peace--
that surpasses human understan--ding.

Glory...

Dissipate the gloom
and the darkness of my sinful deeds,
and with your **radiance** fill our souls with joy,
O bride of God--,
who gave birth to the eter--nal-- Light.

Now...

Heal the misery
of my pa--ssions, O spotless one,
and make me **worthy** of your-- gracious care,
and grant me health--
through your constant and unfaill--ing-- prayer.

Sixth Ode

Hirmos: I pour out...

O **Virgin**, beseech the Lord, your dearest Son,
who deli--vered Himself-- to a **grim** death
and saved my nature from **death** and corruption,
to which I had been **condemned** by my many sins.
Beseech Him that I may be saved
from the **hand** of my ter--rible enemy.

O **Virgin**, I believe that your fervent prayer
will protect-- me and save-- me from **danger**,
dispelling ev'ry temptation and casting
out of my way all the **snares** of the Evil One;
so I implore you without cease:
make me **free** from my pa--ssions and evil deeds.

Glory...

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

Now...

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

Seventh Ode

Hirmos: The young men of Judaea...

When You wanted, O Savior,
to fulfill in Your boun--ty for us Your saving plan,
then You dwelt in the arms of the holy Virgin Mo--ther,
giving her the world-- to protect.
Blessed are You--, O our God,
the God-- of our Fa--thers.

O most pure Virgin Mother,
pray the merciful One to whom you have given birth
so that we may be freed from all sins and all unclean--ness,
and cry out-- with unshaken faith:
Blessed are You--, O our God,
the God-- of our Fa--thers.

Glory...

You established Your Mother
as a wealth of salva--tion, a flowing source of life,
a fortress for protection, a door open for pe--nance,
for those who cry-- out to You in faith:
Blessed are You--, O our God,
the God-- of our Fa--thers.

Now...

Grant, we pray, Theotokos,
to our bodies and souls-- remedy from all disease,
for anxiously we flee for salvation under your-- wings,
O imma--culate Vir--gin,
Mother of our-- Lord and Christ,
the Sa--vior of our-- souls.

Eighth Ode

Hirmos: The King of heaven...

Virgin and Maiden,
turn not away from your children,
who with faith-- run to you-- for assistance.
They praise-- and exalt you
fore--ver and ever.

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

Glory...

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

Now...

O favored Virgin,
you drive away the temptations
and the sud--den attacks-- of my passions;
so I sing your praises
fore--ver and ever.

Ninth Ode

Hirmos: O Virgin immaculate...

O Vir--gin, do not despise
how my tears are flowing,
for you are Mother of Christ the Compassionate,
who wipes away from all faces
the tears of weep--ing-- hearts.

O Vir--gin, pour in my heart
rivers of rejoicing,
for you received all the fulness of happiness;
and cast away, holy Mother,
the sadness of-- my-- sins.

O Vir--gin, be a defense,
a protective shelter,
a sturdy fortress, a stronghold unshakable,
a source of joy and a refuge
for those who come-- to-- you.

Glory...

O Vir--gin, enlighten us
with the beams of your light,
and cast away from us our gloomy ignorance:
we who proclaim with devotion
that you are Mo--ther of God.

Now...

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

Megalynaria

Pattern: Let us sing the praise...

My whole body ails-- and my soul is sick
because of my evil deeds
and the mul--titude of my sins.
To you I come for shel--ter, O Mary full of grace--,
O hope of the hopeless,
help me and save-- me.

O Lady and Mother of the Sa--vior,
receive now the humble prayers
of your poor unworthy ser--vants.

Intercede, we beg-- you, before your Son, our Sa--vior,
and be our mediatrix,
Queen of the universe.

O Mother of God--, worthy of all praise,
we **sing** this-- hymn to you
and exalt-- you with joyful voice.
Pray with the Forerun--ner and all the saints toge--ther
that your **Son**, our Redeemer,
may have mercy on us.

All you ranks and orders of the an--gels,
and **you**, holy Forerunner,
with the twelve apos--tles of Christ
and you, holy mar--tyrs, with the Theoto--kos,
pray eagerly the Savior
that He may save our souls.

May the lips of all-- heretics be sealed
because they refuse to bow
before your all holy i--con,
which is fashioned af--ter the blessed Hodigitria
depicted by the holy
Luke the apos--tle.

