

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Deacon: Bless, Master!

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King! (*metania*)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! (*metania*)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself our King and our God!
(*metania*)

Psalm 103 (104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, Who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters.

Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, Who ridest on the wings of the wind, Who makest the winds Thy messengers; fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken.

Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them.

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst.

By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work.

Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season.

When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renewest the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever, may the Lord rejoice in His works, Who looks on the earth and it trembles, Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3)

Great Litany

Chanted by the Deacon/Priest

First Stasis
Psalms 120—124

(chanter #1)

In my distress I cry to the Lord *

(chanter #2/choir) That He may answer me.

Deliver me O Lord from lying lips *

From a deceitful tongue.

What shall be given to you *

*And what more shall be done to you, you
deceitful tongue.*

A warriors sharp arrows *

With glowing coals of the broom tree.

Woe is me that I sojourn in Meshech *

That I dwell in the tents of Kedar.

Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace *

I am for peace; but when I speak they are for war.

I lift up mine eyes to the hills *

From whence does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord *

Who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *

He who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, He who keeps Israel *

Will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper *

The Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day *

Nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil *

He will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in *

From this time forth and forevermore.

I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord *

Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, built as a city bound firmly together *

From which the tribes go up.

The tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel *

To give thanks to the Name of the Lord.

There thrones for judgment were set *

The thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they prosper who love you! *

Peace within your walls and security within your towers!

For my brethren and companions sake *

I will say peace be within you.

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God *

I will seek your good.

To Thee, I lift up mine eyes *

O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens.

Behold, as the eyes of a servant look to the hand of their master *

As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress.

So our eyes look to the Lord, our God *

Till He have mercy upon us!

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us *

For we have had more than enough of contempt.

Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease *

The contempt of the proud!

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, let Israel now say *

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us.

They would have swallowed us alive *

When their anger was kindled against us!

Then the flood would have swept us away *

The torrent would have gone over us, the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord *

Who has not given us over as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers *

The snare is broken and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord *

Who made heaven and earth!

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

Now and ever and unto ages, of ages. Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *

Glory to Thee, O God!

Little Litany

Chanted by the Deacon/Priest

Second Stasis

Psalms 125-129

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion *

Which cannot be moved, but abides forever!

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem *

So the Lord is round about His people from time forth and forevermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest *

Upon the land allotted to the righteous.

Lest the righteous put forth their hand to do wrong *

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good.

And to those who are upright in their hearts *

But those who turn aside their crooked ways.

The Lord will lead away with evildoers *

Peace be in Israel!

When the Lord brought back those who returned to Zion *

We were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter *

And our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, the Lord has done great things for them *

The Lord has done great things for us, we are glad!

Restore our fortunes, O Lord *

Like the water courses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

He that goes forth weeping, bearing the seeds for sowing.

Shall come home with shouts of joy *

Bringing his sheaves with him.

Unless the Lord builds the house *

Those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city *

The watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest *

Eating the bread of anxious toil, so he gives to his beloved sleep.

Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward *

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them *

He shall not be put to shame when he speaks to his enemies in the gate.

Blessed is every one who fears the Lord *

Who walks in His ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands *

You shall be happy and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house *

Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blest *

Who fears the Lord!

The Lord bless you from Zion! *

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children! *

Peace be upon Israel.

Surely they have afflicted me from my youth *

Yet they have not prevailed against me.

The plowers plowed upon my back *

They made long their furrows.

The Lord is righteous *

He has cut the cords of the wicked.

May all who hate Zion *

Be put to shame and turned backward!

Let them be like the grass on the house tops *

Which withers before it grows up.

With which the reaper does not fill his hand *

Or the binder of sheaves his bosom.

While those who pass by do not say *

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

We bless you *

In the Name of the Lord.

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

Now and ever and unto ages, of ages. Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *

Glory to Thee, O God!

Little Litany

Chanted by the Deacon/Priest

Third Stasis

Psalms 130 - 134

At this time the faithful should kneel (if they are able);

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. *

Lord hear my voice!

Let thine ears be attentive *

To the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, O Lord shouldst mark iniquities *

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with Thee *

That Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord *

My soul waits, and in His word, I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchman for the morning *

More than the watchman for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord *

For with the Lord there is mercy!

And with Him is plenteous redemption *

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up *

Mine eyes are not raised too high.

I do not occupy myself with things *

Too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul *

Like a child quieted at its mothers breast.

O Israel, hope in the Lord *

From this time forth and for evermore.

Remember, O Lord, in David's favor *

All the hardships he endured.

How he swore to the Lord *

And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob!

Lo, we heard of it in Ephrathah *

We found it in the fields of Jaar.

Let us go to His dwelling place *

Let us worship at His footstool!

Arise, O Lord, and go to Thy resting place *

Thou and the ark of Thy might.

Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness *

And let Thy saints shout for joy!

For Thy servant David's sake *

Do not turn away the face of Thine anointed one!

The Lord swore to David a sure oath *

From which He will not turn back.

One of the sons of your body *

I will set upon your throne.

If your sons keep my covenant *

And my testimonies which I shall teach them.

Their sons also forever *

Shall sit upon your throne.

For the Lord has chosen Zion *

He has desired it for His habitation.

This is my resting place forever *

Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions *

I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Her priests I will cloth with salvation *

And her saints will shout for joy!

There I will make a horn to sprout for David *

I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed.

His enemies I will cloth with shame *

But upon himself his crown will shed it luster.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is *

When brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil upon the head *

Running down upon the beard,

The beard of Aaron *

Running down on the collar for his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon *

Which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For the Lord has commanded the blessing *

Life for evermore!

Come, bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord *

Who stand by night in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands to the holy place *

And bless the Lord!

May the Lord bless you from Zion *

He who made heaven and earth.

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

Now and ever and unto ages, of ages. Amen.

The following is repeated three times:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *

Glory to Thee, O God!

Little Litany

Chanted by the Deacon/Priest

Lord, I Call

Psalm 141

(Sung in prescribed Tone – see www.CTSHBG.org for the variable hymns)

Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord!

Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!

Reader: Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth and a door of enclosure about my lips. Incline not my heart to evil deeds, to make excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity: let me never partake of their delights. Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the sinner never anoint my head. For my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one breaks and shatters on the ground, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the Sheol. But my eyes are turned toward Thee, Lord God, In Thee I take refuge. Leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets while I alone escape. I cried with my voice to the Lord, with my voice to the Lord did I make my supplication. I poured out my complaint before Him. I showed before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knew my path. In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me. I looked on my right but there was no one that would know me. Refuge failed me. No one cared for my soul. I cried to Thee, O Lord, I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry for I am brought very low. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

10. Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Thy name.

9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.

7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

6. If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? For there is forgiveness with Thee!

5. *For Thy namesake I have waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord!*

4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all its iniquities.*

2. *Praise the Lord, all nations; praise Him all people!*

1. *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever!*

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

Entrance

The entrance is made with the censor. When the Gospel is to be read, however, the entrance is made with the Gospel

Gladsome Light

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!

Prokeimenon & Old Testament

See www.CTSHBG.org for hymns and readings

Let My Prayer Arise

*While the verses are being chanted, all those present in the church,
and those who are in the Sanctuary (including the Deacon), **kneel and pray.***

Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

Refrain: Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

Lord, I have cried to Thee, hear me. Hear the voice of my prayer, when I cry to Thee, hear me, Lord. *Refrain*

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, set a watch before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips.

Refrain

Incline not my heart to any evil thing, nor to practice wicked deeds. *Refrain*

(final time) **Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense * and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.**

*When the chanting of the final verse is completed, we stand
and the Priest prays the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian:*

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

Priest: O Lord, and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. *Prostration*

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant!

Prostration

Yes, O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own sins, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. *Prostration*

Litany of Fervent Supplication

Litany of the Catechumens

**First Litany of the Faithful
Second Litany of the Faithful**

Hymn of the Entrance

**Now the powers of heaven invisibly with us do serve. Lo, the King of glory enters.
Lo, the mystical sacrifice is up-borne, fulfilled.**

*When the choir is finished singing the faithful should all **prostrate, with their heads to the ground** (if they are able); as the Pre-Sanctified Gifts are processed in silence by the clergy. Once they have re-entered the Altar the choir continues with the Hymn of the Entrance:*

**Let us draw near in faith and love, and become communicants of Life eternal.
Alleluia! (3)**

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

As before

**Litany & Lord's Prayer
Prayer at the Bowing of our Heads**

Communion Hymn

O Taste and see that the Lord is good. Alleluia. (3)

Following the distribution of Holy Communion

Priest: O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!

**Taste the heavenly bread and the cup of life! And see how good the Lord is!
Alleluia! (3)**

Priest: Always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages!

**Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Thy glory;
for Thou hast made us worthy to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal, and life-
creating Mysteries. Keep us in Thy holiness, that all the day we may meditate
upon Thy righteousness.**

Litany of Thanksgiving

Prayer before the Ambo

Priest: O Almighty Master, Who in wisdom hast fashioned all creation, Who, through Thine ineffable providence and great goodness, hast led us to these all-revered days for purification of souls and bodies, for restraint of passions, and for hope of the Resurrection. Who, during the forty days, didst put into the hands of Thy servitor Moses the tables in letters divinely inscribed: Grant unto us also, O Good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the Fast, to preserve the Faith undivided, to crush the heads of invisible serpents, to be shown to be conquerors of sins and, without condemnation, also to attain unto and to worship the holy Resurrection. For blessed and glorified is Thine all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore! (3)

Dismissal

Immediately following the Polychronia (many years)

"His beatitude..., etc." we sing:

Having suffered the Passion for us, O Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us! (3) with prostrations