

THE GREAT SERVICE OF THE DOXOLOGY

On the National Celebration of Independence of The United States of America: July 4th

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The priests vest in epitrachil and phelon; the deacon with all his vestments.

A table is prepared at the designated place. On it are the Holy Gospel Book, a hand cross, a standing cross and lit candles. The censer should be near at hand.

Or, if there is a procession to the place of prayer, the clergy bring the Gospel Book, the hand cross and the censer.

At the beginning of the service, the deacon asks the blessing and censes the table, the clergy and the assembled people and once again the table. He then says:

Deacon: Master, give the blessing!

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth who are present everywhere and fulfilling all things, the treasury of blessings and source of life: come abide in us, cleanse us of all stains and save our souls, O good One.

**Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.**

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, forgive our transgressions. Holy One, look down on us and heal our infirmities to the glory of your name. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Reader: Come let us worship and bow down before God our king. Come let us worship and bow down before Christ God our king. Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ himself, our God and king.

Psalm 46

God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence. There is a river that brings joy to the city of God, to the sacred house of the Most High. God lives in the city, and it will never be destroyed; at early dawn he will come to its help. Nations are terrified, kingdoms are shaken; God roars out, and the earth dissolves. The Lord almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge! Come, see what the Lord has done! See what amazing things he has done on earth! He stops wars all over the world; he breaks bows, destroys spears, and sets shields of fire! He says: "Stop your fighting, and know that I am God, supreme among the nations, supreme over the world!" The Lord almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge!

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

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God, our hope, glory to you.**

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy (place, church, chapel, monastery) and for those who are here in faith, piety and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our (Most) Blessed (Arch) Bishop (N.) (*Metropolitan, Patriarch*), the venerable priests, the deacons in Christ and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President of our nation, for all civil and military authorities, for the armed forces and for all authorities, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That our Federal, State and local government officials will be free in their actions and words of governing, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the integrity of our nation be maintained during their terms in office and that we may work with all peace loving peoples for the fulfilling of God's holy plans, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy place, for all cities, towns and villages, for the faithful dwelling in them, and for the entire nation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all danger, affliction, anger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ, our God.

People: To you, O Lord.

The priest says this Prayer:

Priest: You that have bestowed on us these communal prayers lifted in one voice, that promised to grant the requests of two and three agreeing in your name, now fulfill the requests of your servants. Give us in this present age the knowledge of your truth and bestow on us in the future age, everlasting life.

For you are good, O God, and the lover of mankind and we offer glory to you: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The verses of "God is the Lord" are sung in Tone 1:

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us, blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: The nations all encompassed me but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us, blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: No I shall not die, I shall live to recite the deeds of the Lord.

God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us, blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: It was the stone rejected by the builders that proved to be the keystone; this is the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see.

God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us, blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Tropar to the Holy Cross (Tone 1)

O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage. Give victory to Orthodox Christians over the enemy and preserve your people by your cross.

Kontak to the Holy Cross (Tone 4)

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

O Christ God who of your own free will was lifted up on top the cross, bestow your mercies upon the new people that bear your name. Make Orthodox Christians glad in your power, giving them victory over the enemy that thus your help shall be a weapon of peace, and uncontestable victory.

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God (Tone 8)

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

You are most blessed, O Birthgiver of God and virgin, for through him that took flesh of you Hades was chained, Adam was summoned, the curse was lifted, Eve was delivered, death was put to death and we are revived. Therefore, singing, we cry out: Blessed are you, Christ God, for thus did you will this to be: Glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

THE EPISTLE

The Prokimenon in the 4th Tone:

Reader: Rise, God, dispense justice throughout the world, since no nation is excluded from your ownership.

People: Rise, God, dispense justice throughout the world, since no nation is excluded from your ownership.

Reader: God stands in the divine assembly, he dispenses justice.

People: Rise, God, dispense justice throughout the world, since no nation is excluded from your ownership.

Reader: Rise, God, dispense justice throughout the world.

People: Since no nation is excluded from your ownership.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Second Letter of St. Peter.

Deacon: Let us be attentive.

2 Peter 1:3-11

Reader: Brothers, by his divine power, Jesus Christ has given us all the things that we need for life and for the true devotion, bringing us to know God himself, who has called us by his own glory and goodness. In making these gifts, he has given us the guarantee of something very great and wonderful to come: through them you will be able to share the divine nature and to escape corruption in a world that is sunk in vice. But to attain this, you will have to do your utmost yourselves, adding goodness, self-control to your understanding, patience to your self-control, true devotion to your patience, kindness to your fellow men to your devotion, and to this kindness, love. If you have a generous supply of these, they will not leave you ineffectual or unproductive: they will bring you to a real knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But without them a man is blind or else short-sighted; he has forgotten how his past sins were washed away. Brothers, you have been called and chosen: work all the harder to justify it. If you do all these things there is no danger that you will ever fall away. In this way you will be granted admittance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Verse: We give thanks to you, God we give thanks as we invoke your name.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Verse: We give thanks to you, God, as we recount your marvels.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Deacon: Wisdom! Arise! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Matthew 5:43-48

Priest: At that time, Jesus said: 'You have learned how it was said: You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you: in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to shine on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great goodness, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for our (Most) Blessed (Arch) Bishop N. _____ (Metropolitan, Patriarch), and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the President, for our nation, for civil and military authorities and for the armed forces, and for all authorities, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy . (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray that our Federal, State and local government officials will be free in their activities and words of government.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have struggled for the freedom of the Faith and for those who have sought to preserve our Nation's integrity under God.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for our forefathers and brethren fallen asleep in the Lord, Orthodox Christians, who rest here and elsewhere, and for those who gave their lives for this Nation.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians who live here and elsewhere.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: For reasonable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth and for peaceful times, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That this country be reserved from strife, civil commotions, war, famine, earthquakes, floods and calamities, tornadoes, and tsumamis, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That the Lord our God will pardon His people their many sins and transgressions and that He will not abandon us in our waywardness, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That the Lord our God hear us and listen to our voice, unworthy sinners that we are and have mercy on us, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Prayer by the Priest

Priest: Hear us, O God, O savior, hope of the entire earth, of those on land, on sea and in the air; show mercy, O Master and have mercy on us.

For you are merciful, O God, and the lover of mankind and we offer glory to you: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

**All present, clergy and faithful, kneel and the Bishop or priest offers the following
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Glory to you, O God, great and wonderful who rule all things by your inscrutable goodness and rich providence. By your all-wise and unsearchable decision each man born exists and lives on the face of the earth for a specific length of days.

Gratefully we acknowledge that you have not treated us according to our transgressions and have not rewarded us according to our sins. We have sinned, O Lord, and we have committed many evils and transgressed against you, God, and our fellow men. We are aware that we are very displeasing to you in this way, and yet, in your mercy and patience, you weep over our failings. Today, we acknowledge this before you and all those here assembled, O Creator of all, and we pray you to accept our offerings of true thanks for all your mercies and blessings on us.

You have granted us the privilege of electing our civil authorities during whose tenures we prayerfully and hopefully workout our salvation. Grant them wisdom and understanding. Guide them, so that they may render their due service to you, the almighty ruler of all and may fulfill their obligations to us. Grant them reasoning and comprehension that they may act justly in all events and thus preserve us, your heritage, in tranquility. Make them upright in executing the laws, and gracious to those who are good and trustworthy. Cause them to be aware of the needy, of the defenseless and homeless, of the immigrant and the migrant. Make them responsive to truth and righteousness, putting aside all self-interest and gain so that we may whole heartedly work with them in the holy transfiguration of our society. Grant that during their time in office, we may be blessed with peace, tranquility and prosperity, seasonable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, of our hands and of all things necessary to life and salvation, now and that to come.

O all merciful one, source of good things, Father of all consolation and our Lord, do not turn away from us who put our hope and trust in you. Hear this prayer which we offer in firm expectation of your mercies and good gifts. Only you know our needs and you fill them before we ask, for it is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from you, the Father of all light.

And we offer praise, glory, thanksgiving and worship to you; together with your only-begotten Son and your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

GREAT DOXOLOGY

Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to men who enjoy his favor. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory. O Lord, heavenly king, God the Father and sustainer of all, O Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, lamb of God, Son of the Father that take away the sin of the world have mercy on us, you that take away the sins of the world. You that sit at the right of the Father, accept our prayer and have mercy on us. For you only are holy, you only are Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father, Amen. I will bless you every day and I will praise your name to the ages of ages. Grant, O Lord, that we be kept without sin this day. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen. May your mercy be on us, O Lord according to our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your precepts. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your precepts. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your precepts. Lord, you have become our refuge from generation to generation. I said, Lord have mercy on me, cure my soul, for I have transgressed against you. Lord, I have fled to you, teach me to do your will, for you are my God. For with you is the fountain of life, in your light we will see the light. Extend your mercy to those who know you.

Or, instead, the Hymn by St. Ambrose of Milan

We praise you, God: we confess you, O Lord. All the earth worships you, eternal Father. All the angels, the heavens, the powers of the universe, the cherubim and seraphim cry out to you: Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! The glorious choir of apostles, the praiseworthy ranks of prophets, the noble army of martyrs praise you. The Holy Church confesses you throughout the world, Father of immense majesty, worshipping your true and only Son and the Holy Spirit, the comforter. O Christ, you are the king of glory, you are the everlasting son of the Father. You were not ashamed to be born of the Virgin's womb for the salvation of mankind. Overcoming the sting of death, you opened the kingdom of heaven to believers. You sit at the right of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come as judge. Therefore we pray you: help your servants whom you have redeemed with your precious blood. Number them among your saints in everlasting glory. O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage. Rule them and uphold them forever.

We will bless you everyday and we will praise your name to the ages of ages. Grant, O Lord, that we be kept without sin this day. Have mercy on us, O Lord, according to our hope in you, I have trusted in you, O Lord, let me never be confused. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to you, Christ God, our hope, glory to you.

People: Glory to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
In the name of the Lord, Master, bless.**

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his most pure Mother, through the power of the life-giving Cross and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us for He is good and the lover of mankind.

People: Amen.

If it is the custom, the anthem: "Many Years" is sung first to the Hierarchy, then to the civil authorities, and finally to all Orthodox Christians.

Deacon: O Lord our God, grant to our (Most) Blessed (Arch) Bishop, N. _____ (Metropolitan, Patriarch) peace, safety, honor, health, length of days and many years!

People: God grant you many years! (3x)

Deacon: O Lord, grant to our President, to all civil authorities and to all those in the service of our country, peace, safety, honor, health, length of days and many years!

People: God grant them many years! (3x)

Deacon: O Lord, grant to all Orthodox Christians, peace, safety, honor, health, length of days and many years!

People: God grant them many years! (3x)

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

People: Amen.