



Pro-Liturgy/Obednitsa

When a Deacon serves alone

As served in the Diocese of Philadelphia & Eastern Pennsylvania

*Service taken from the Obednitsa service used in the
Diocese of Alaska by His Grace, Archbishop Gregory of Sitka (+2008)*



Pro-Liturgy/Obednitsa

When a Deacon serves alone

When the Deacon comes to the Church, he sets up the Gospel and Cross on the central anoly/tetrapod. The Royal Doors and the Curtain remain shut. He vests as usual, and begins the service at the appropriate time with a full censuring of the Church (starting with censuring the anoly/tetrapod, the iconostas, the people, the Church, and then ending again in the center of the Church). When he finishes he takes his place in front of the Gospel and Cross and begins:

Deacon: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Choir: Amen.

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy. *(repeated after each petition)*

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

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

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

Deacon: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan *(Name)* and for His Grace, our *(Arch)*Bishop *(Name)*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Deacon: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Choir: Amen.

The First Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Blessed art Thou, O Lord! Bless the Lord, O my soul. And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Blessed art Thou, O Lord!

The Little Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy. *(repeated)*

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

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

Choir: To Thee O Lord.

Deacon: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Choir: Amen.

The Second Antiphon

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

Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have being. Put not your trust in princes, in sons of men in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs he returns to his earth; on that very day his plans perish. The Lord will reign forever; Thy God, O Zion, to all generations.

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

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, who without change became man and was crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death. Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Save us!

The Little Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord have mercy.

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

Choir: To Thee O Lord.

Deacon: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Choir: Amen.

The Third Antiphon

In Thy kingdom remember us O Lord when Thou comest into Thy kingdom
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

The Little Entrance

The deacon takes Gospel from the analogy/tetrapod and proceeds before the Royal Doors and exclaims:

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The deacon returns the Gospel to the analogy/tetrapod

Choir: Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Who rose from the dead, O Son of God, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Then the Choir sings the proper Troparia and Kondakia for the Day

Deacon: O Lord, Save the God Fearing!

Choir O Lord, Save the God Fearing!

Deacon: And hear us!

Choir: And hear us!

Choir: Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us! *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, amen. Holy Immortal have mercy in us!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us!

The Epistle & Gospel Readings

Deacon: Let us attend! Wisdom!

The deacon then does a minor censuring

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the ___ tone.

The Reader and Choir exchange the Prokeimenon verses

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from.....

Deacon: Let us Attend!

Reader: Brethren.... *(The Epistle lesson for the day is read.)*

At the conclusion of the Epistle Lesson, the Choir sings: Alleluia!

Deacon: The Reading of the Holy Gospel According to Saint _____

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Deacon: Let us Attend! *(The Gospel lesson for the day is read.)*

Choir: Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee!

The deacon then offers a Sermon.

The Augmented Litany

Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord have mercy

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord have mercy. *(3x's repeated)*

Deacon: Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan *(Name)*, and for His Grace, our *(Arch)*Bishop *(Name)*, for Priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Deacon: Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere.

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us *(and among them the Newly departed (Names))*, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, the brethren of this holy house, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Choir: Amen.

Choir: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

In one holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Reader 1: The heavenly choir sings to Thee and cries: "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Reader 2: Come unto Him and be enlightened and your faces shall never be ashamed.

Reader 1: The Heavenly Choir sings to Thee, and cries: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; Heaven and Earth are full of Thy glory.

Reader 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader 1: The choir of Holy Angels and Archangels, with all the Powers of Heaven, sing Thy praises and cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, Save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy Grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it O Lord. *(Repeated)*

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Deacon: The pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Deacon: All Things with are good and profitable to our sols, and peace to the world, Let us ask of the Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, Let us ask of the Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, Let us ask of the Lord.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Reader: O God, remit, pardon and forgive our sins, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether by words or deeds, whether in knowledge of ignorance, whether by day or night, whether in mind or thought; forgive us all these, for Thou art good and the lover of mankind.

Choir: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: O All Holy Trinity, Mighty one in essence, Kingdom undivided, origin of all good things, be graciously inclined to me a sinner. Establish me; give understanding to my heart, and purge away my sin. Enlighten my mind that I may glorify, sing praises and praise Thee saying:

Choir: One is Holy! One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*If the Presanctified Lamb is present the deacon then prepares the Gifts.
The Choir sings hymns or reads the Pre-Communion prayers.*

The deacon prepares the Chalice in this way:

- *The deacon enters the Altar through the South Deacon Door and venerates the altar. He crosses his orar is the usual way, and the antimens is opened.*
- *He then goes to the table of Oblation, and wine and hot water is put into the Chalice*
- *The deacon then takes the Chalice to the altar where the Presanctified Lamb is resting.*
- *The deacon carefully cuts up the Presanctified Lamb.*
- *The Deacon communes himself*
- *He then puts the rest of the particles into the chalice*
- *The Curtain and Royal Doors are opened the he brings the Holy Gifts to the Faithful in the usual way:*
 - *Deacon: In the fear of God and with faith and with love draw near!*
 - *Choir: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!"*
 - *Deacon: (leading the faithful): I believe O Lord, and I confess...*
 - *Choir: Receive the Body of Christ...*

Choir: Blessed be the Name of the Lord henceforth and forevermore. *(3x's)*

Psalm 34 (33)

Reader:

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together! I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed. The poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Choir: It is truly right to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy *(3 times)*. O Lord, bless!

Deacon: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, Our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Choir: Amen.

*The Deacon then offers any announcements, if desired intones "Many Years!"
He then places the Cross upon the center analog/tetrapod and the faithful come forward to venerate it and
the Gospel before leaving the church.*