

Sirk of Growning

Detrothal is analogous to engagement. This service is about the promise to marry. As part of that promise, the bride and bridegroom exchange rings. The second service is the rite of crowning, which is the wedding itself. This service consists of the entrance of the bridal couple into the church, being crowned in marriage (the priest places actual crowns on their heads), the removal of crowns, and the blessing of the marriage. Unlike most western Christian weddings, there is no exchange of vows. Each of these services is embedded in a richly scriptural text. It extensively uses the imagery of the Hebrew Scriptures as it recalls the lives of biblical figures such as Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel. It continues forward into the Christian Scriptures invoking the likeness of Zechariah and Elizabeth and recalling Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

Above all, the Byzantine-Slavonic wedding is a liturgical service, that is, a public action of the Church in which we worship God. While the text speaks richly of marriage, God is the true center of the service. For it is God who will join man and woman into one. Since God is then the center of the marriage, the marriage must give witness to God. Near the end of the service, one of the songs holds up the martyrs, those who have given ultimate witness to the faith in Jesus Christ, as models for the newlywed couple. As such, the husband and wife must give witness to God. They are to be evangelists, spreading the good news (the Gospel) that "the Kingdom of God is at hand for you."

Therefore, to give praise to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, for the gifts of love, marriage, and all good things, I have arranged this service set for congregational singing. I chose to use music of the Carpatho-Rusyn tradition. Foremost, they are the ones I know and love and used at my own weeding. The Carpatho-Rusyn Christians are known for vigorous congregational signing; thus their church music is a combination of folk music and monastic chant. I took the chants from the Old Church Slavonic Carpatho-Rusyn *Prostopinije* (Plain Chant) and harmonized them for four parts with the melody in the soprano line.

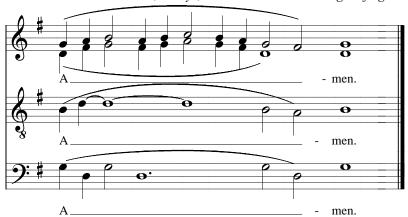
Sloan Rolando Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

¹Luke 10:9.

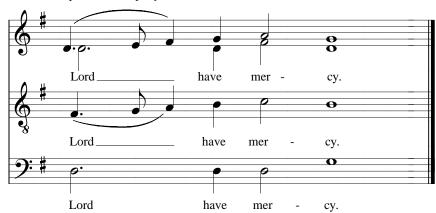
The Rite of Betrothal

Deacon: Bless, Master.

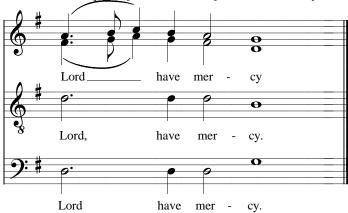
Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



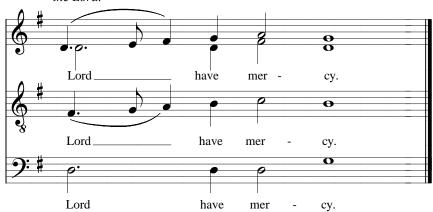
Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



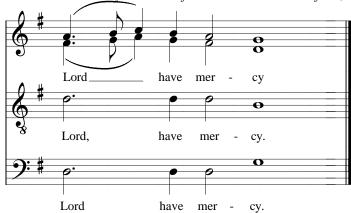
Deacon: For the <u>peace</u> from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



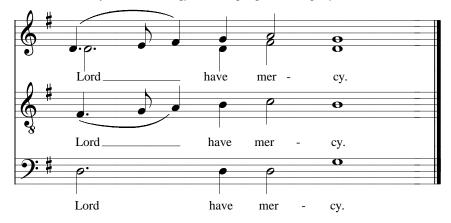
Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.



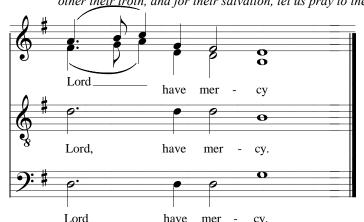
Deacon: For this <u>holy</u> house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.



Deacon: [For our most-blessed Patriarch, ______] for our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan _____, for our God-loving Bishop ______, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

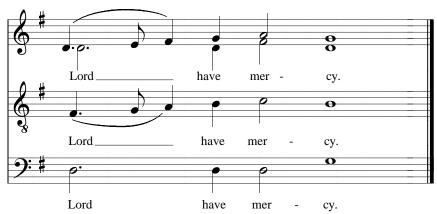


Deacon: For servant of God _____, and for the handmaiden of God _____, who now plight each other their troth, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

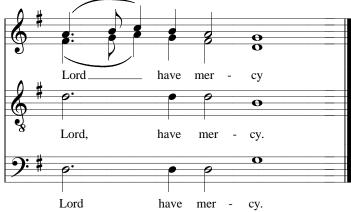


Lord have mer - cy.

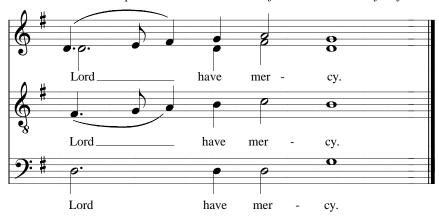
Deacon: That they may be granted children for the continuation of the race, and all their petitions which are unto salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



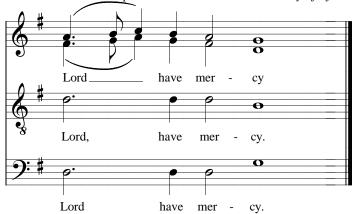
Deacon: That He will send down upon them perfect and peaceful love, and assistance, let us pray to the Lord.



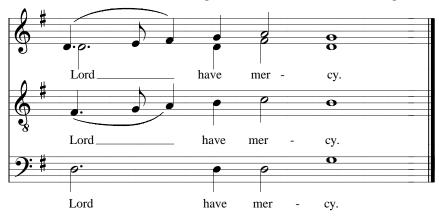
Deacon: That He will preserve them in oneness of mind, and in steadfast faith, let us pray to the Lord.



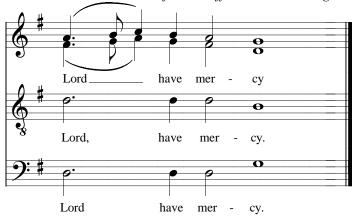
Deacon: That He will preserve them in a blameless way of life, let us pray to the Lord.



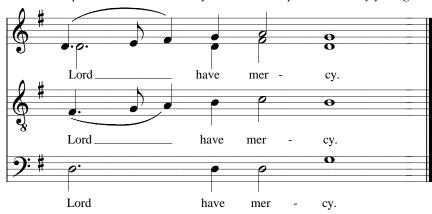
Deacon: That the Lord our God will grant to them an honorable marriage and a bed undefiled, let us pray to the Lord.



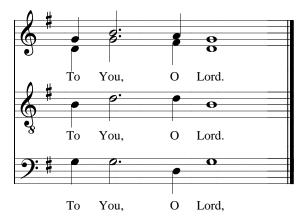
Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.



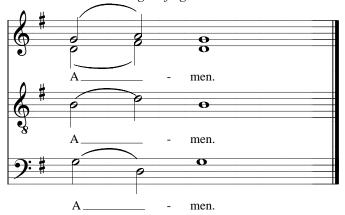
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.



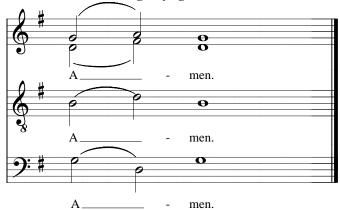
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and every-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

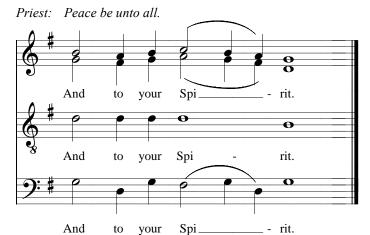


Priest: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



Priest: O eternal God, who has brought into unity those who were sundered, and has ordained for them an indissoluble bond of love, who blessed Isaac and Rebecca, and made them heirs of Your promise: Bless also these Your servants, ______ and _____, guiding them unto every good work. For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

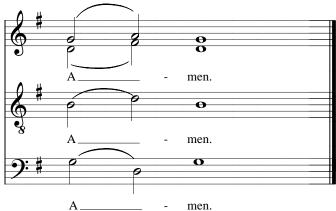




Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.



Priest: O Lord, our God, who has espoused the Church as a pure virgin from among the gentiles: Bless this betrothal, and unite and maintain these Your servants in peace and oneness of mind. For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



[Then taking the rings, the priest blesses the bridal pair, making the sign of the cross with the ring of the bride over the bridegroom, and with that of the bridegroom over the bride saying to the man:]

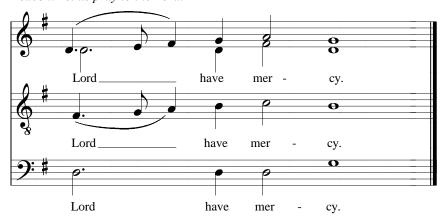
Priest: The servant of God, ______, is betrothed to the handmaiden of God, _____, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

[And to the woman:]

Priest: The handmaiden of God, _____, is betrothed to servant of God, _____, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

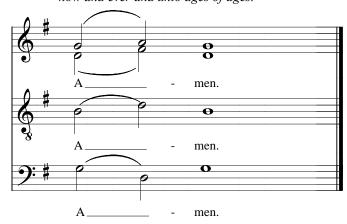
[And when he has said this to each of them three times, he places the rings on their right hands. Then the bridal pair

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



exchanges the rings, and the priest says the following prayer:]

O Lord our God, who accompanied the servant of the patriarch Abraham into Mesopotamia, when he was sent to espouse a wife for his lord Isaac, and who, by means of the drawing of water, revealed to him that he should betroth Rebecca: You, the same Lord, bless also the betrothal of these Your servants, , and confirm the promise that they have made. Establish them in the holy union which is from You. For in the beginning You made them male and female, and by You the woman is joined unto the man as a helper and for the procreation of the human race. Therefore, O Lord our God, who has sent forth Your truth upon Your inheritance and Your covenant unto Your servants our fathers, Your elect from generation to generation: Look ___, and Your handmaiden, _____, and establish and make firm their betrothal, in faith and in oneness of mind, in truth and in love. For You, O Lord, have declared that a pledge should be given and confirmed in all things. By a ring power was given to Joseph in Egypt; by a ring Daniel was glorified in the land of Babylon; by a ring the uprightness of Tamar was revealed; by a ring our heavenly Father showed His bounty upon His Son, for He said: Bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry. By Your own right hand, O Lord, You armed Moses in the Red Sea; by Your true word the heavens were established, and the foundations of the earth were made firm; and the right hands of Your servants also shall be blessed by your mighty word and by Your upraised arm. Therefore, O Master, bless now this putting-on of rings with your heavenly blessing, and let Your angel go before them all the days of their life. For You are He that blesses and sanctifies all things, and unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



The Rite of Growning

PSALM 127 LXX(128)

will

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Your

wife



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with

- in

your

house;



Priest: Do you, _____, have a good, free and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take as your wife this woman, , whom you see here before you?

Bridegroom: I have, reverend father.

Priest: Have you promised yourself to any other bride?

Bridegroom: I have not promised myself, reverend father.

Priest: Do you, _____, have a good, free and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take as your husband

this man, _____, whom you see here before you?

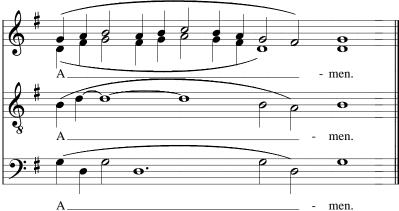
Bride: I have, reverend father.

Priest: Have you promised yourself to any other man?

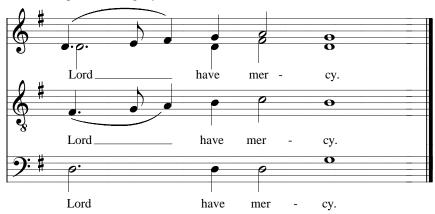
Bride: I have not promised myself, reverend father.

Deacon: Bless, master.

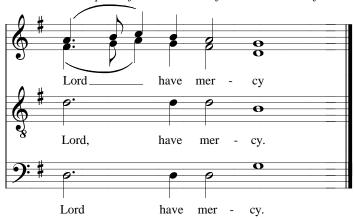
Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



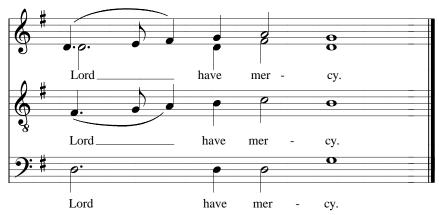
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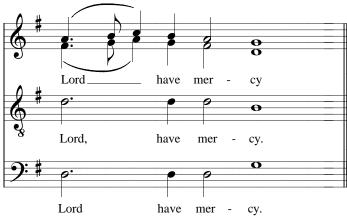
Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



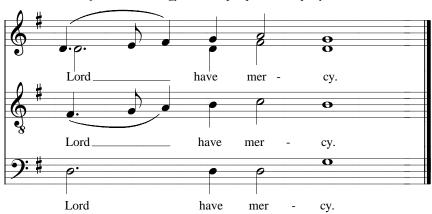
Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.



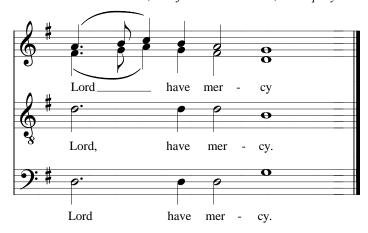
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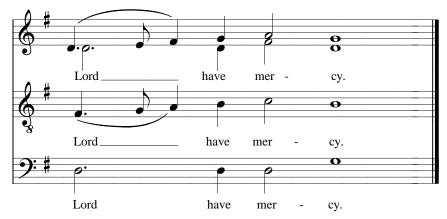
Deacon: [For our most-blessed Patriarch, ______] for our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan _____, for our God-loving Bishop ______, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.



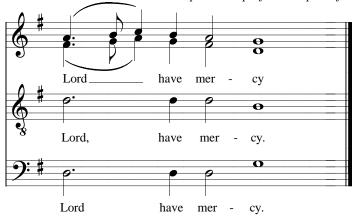
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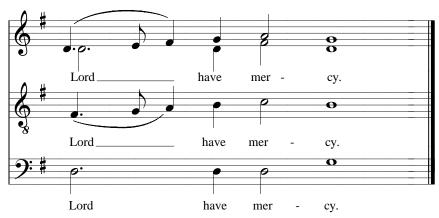
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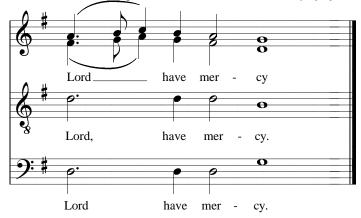
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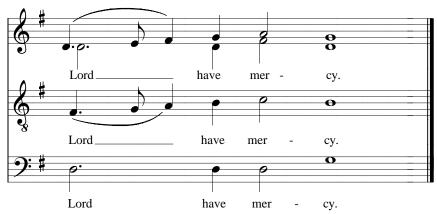
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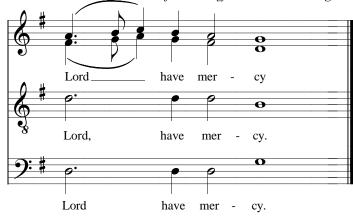
Deacon: That He will preserve them in a blameless way of life, let us pray to the Lord.



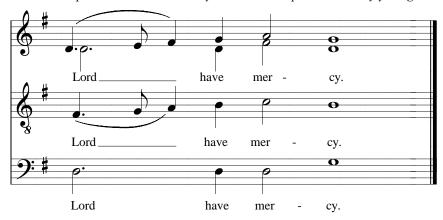
Deacon: That the Lord our God will grant to them an honorable marriage and a bed undefiled, let us pray to the Lord.



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



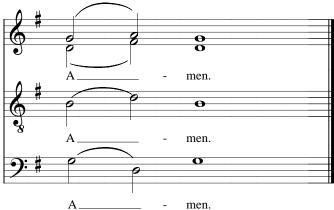
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.



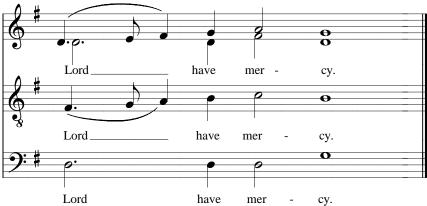
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and every-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.



Priest: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

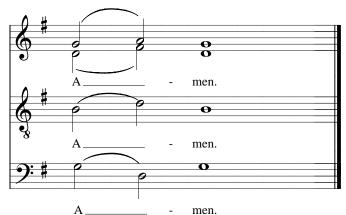


Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

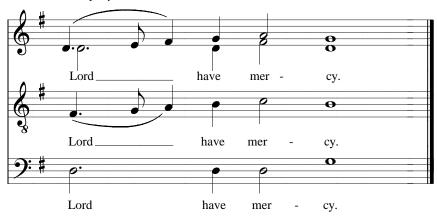


Priest: O God most pure, fashioner of every creature, who transformed the rib of our forefather Adam into a wife, because of Your love towards mankind, and blessed them and said to them: Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; who made of the two one flesh: Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh, and what God has joined together, let no man put asunder: You blessed Your servant Abraham, and opening the womb of Sarah, made him to be the father of many nations. You gave Isaac to Rebecca, and blessed her in childbearing. You joined Jacob unto Rachel, and from them brought forth the twelve patriarchs. You united Joseph and Aseneth giving them Ephraim and Manasseh as the fruit of their procreation. You accepted Zechariah and Elizabeth, and made their offspring to be the Forerunner. From the root of Jesse according to the flesh, You did bud forth the ever-virgin one and was incarnate of her, and was born of her for the redemption of the human race. Through Your unutterable gift and manifold goodness, You came to Cana of Galilee, and blessed the marriage there, to make manifest that it is Your will that there should be lawful marriage

and procreation. You, the same all-holy Master, accept the prayers of us Your servants. As You were present there, be also present here, with Your invisible protection. Bless this marriage, and grant to these Your servants, and _______, a peaceful life, length of days, chastity, mutual love in the bond of peace, long-lived offspring, gratitude from their children, a crown of glory that does not fade away. Graciously grant that they may see their children's children. Preserve their bed unassailed, and give them of the dew of heaven from on high, and of the fatness of the earth. Fill their houses with wheat, wine, and oil and with every good thing, so that they may give in turn to those in need; and grant also to those here present with them all those petitions which are for their salvation. For You are the God of mercies, and of bounties, and of love towards mankind, unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

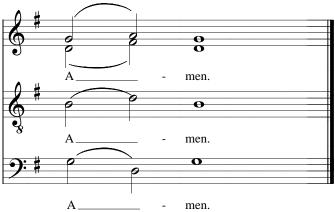


Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

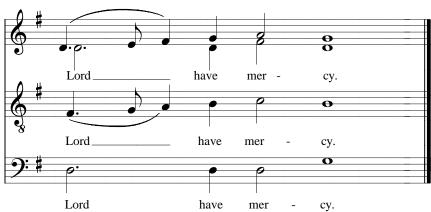


Priest: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, priest of mystical and undefiled marriage, and ordainer of the law of the marriage of the body; preserver of immortality, and provider of the good things of life; the same master who in the beginning made man and established him as a king over creation, and said: "It is not good that man should be alone upon the earth. Let us make a helper fit for him." Talking one of his ribs, you fashioned woman; and when Adam saw her he said: This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out Man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; what therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder: Now also, O Master, our Lord and our God, send down Your heavenly grace upon these Your servants, ; grant that this Your handmaiden may be subject to her husband in all things, and that this Your servant may be the head of his wife, so that they may live according to Your will. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Abraham and Sarah. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Isaac and Rebecca. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Jacob and all the patriarchs. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Joseph and Aseneth. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Moses and Zipporah. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Joachim and Anna. Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Zechariah and Elizabeth. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You preserved Noah in the ark. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You preserved Jonah in the belly of the whale. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You reserved the three holy children from the fire, sending down upon them dew from heaven; and let that gladness come upon them which the blessed Helen had when she found the precious cross. Remember them, O Lord our God, as You remembered Enoch, Shem, Elijah. Remember them, O Lord our God, as You remembered Your forty holy martyrs, sending down upon them crowns from heaven. Remember them, O Lord our God, and the parents who have nurtured them, for the prayers of parents

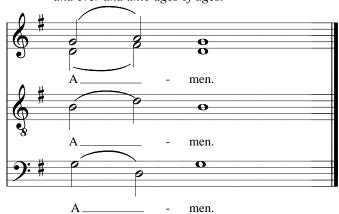
make firm the foundations of houses. Remember them, O Lord our God, the [witnesses] of the bridal pair, who have come together in this joy. Remember, O Lord our God, Your servant, ______, and Your handmaiden, _____, and bless them. Grant them of the fruit of their bodies, fair children, concord of soul and body. Exalt them like the cedars of Lebanon, like a luxuriant vine. Give them offspring in number like unto full ears of grain; so that, having enough of all things, they may abound in every good work that is good and acceptable unto You. Let them see their children's children, like olive shoots around their table; so that finding favor in Your sight, they may shine like the stars of heaven, in You our God. For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



Priest: O holy God, who formed man from the dust, and fashioned woman from his ribs, and joined her unto him as a helper, for it seemed good to Your majesty that man should not be alone upon the earth: You, the same Lord, stretch out now also Your hand from Your holy dwelling-place, and unite this Your servant, ______, and Your handmaiden, ______; for by You is the husband joined unto the wife. Unite them in one mind; wed them into one flesh, granting to them the fruit of the body and the procreation of fair children. For Yours is the majesty, and 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 ages of ages.



[The priest takes the crowns, which recall those with which the martyrs (witnesses) of Christ, are crowned in heaven, and crowns first the bridegroom, saying:]

Priest: The servant of God, ______, is crowned unto the handmaiden of God, _____: in the name of

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[So also he crowns the bride saying:]

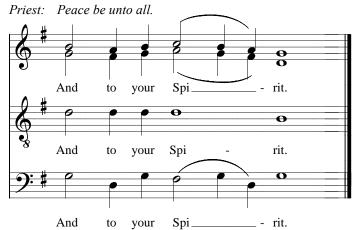
Priest: The handmaiden of God, ______, is crowned unto the servant of God, _____: in the name of

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[Then he blesses them three times, saying each time.]

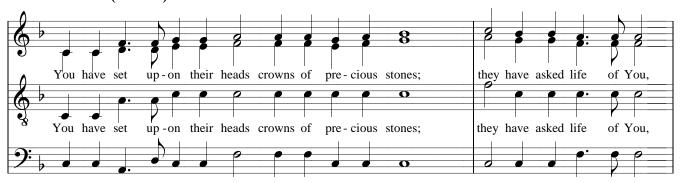
O Lord our God, crown them glory and honor.

Deacon: Let us attend.



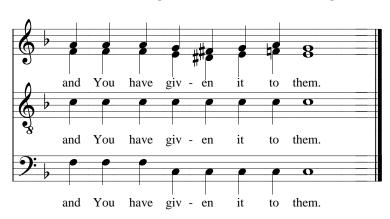
Deacon: Wisdom!

PROKEIMENON (TONE 4)



You have set up-on their heads crowns of pre-cious stones;

they have asked life of You,



^{*} You will make them most blessed forever; * You will make them glad with the joy of Your presence.

EPISTLE (EPH 5:20-33)

Deacon: Wisdom!

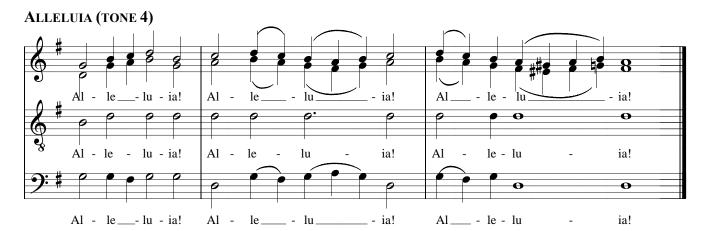
Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

[Reading is chanted.]

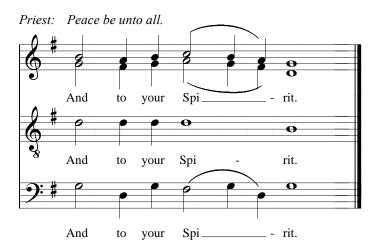
Priest: Peace be unto you, reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.



[\]vec{v} You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

GOSPEL (JOHN 2:1-11)

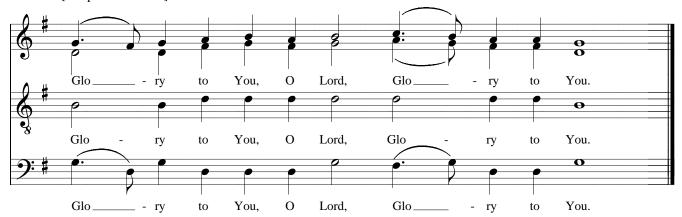


Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

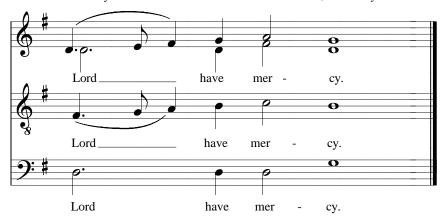


Deacon: Let us attend.

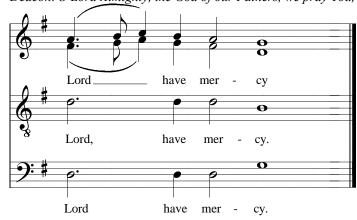
[Gospel is chanted.]



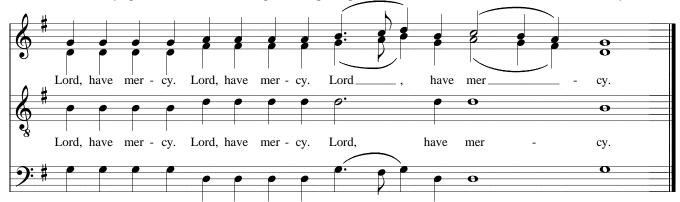
Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say:



Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray You, hearken us and have mercy.

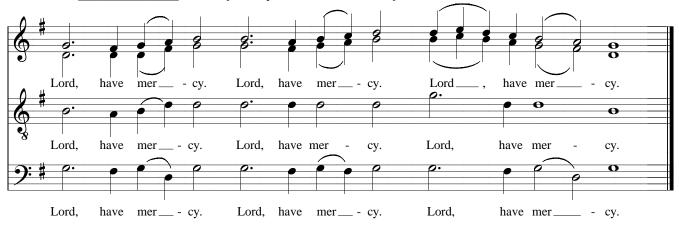


Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we beseech You, hearken and have mercy.

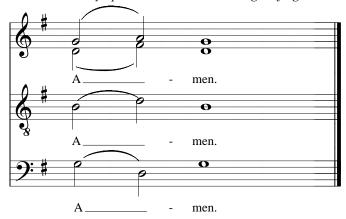


Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord_____, have mer - cy.

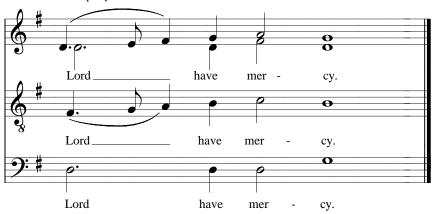
Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, _____, ..., and for the pardon and remission of all their sins.

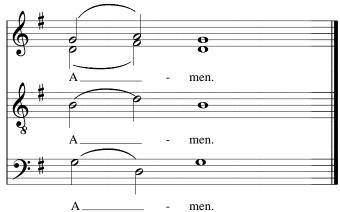


Priest: For You are a merciful God, and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages.

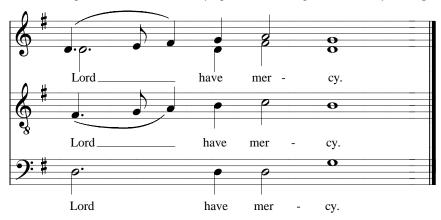


Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

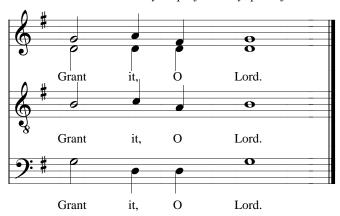




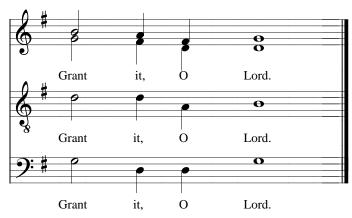
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.



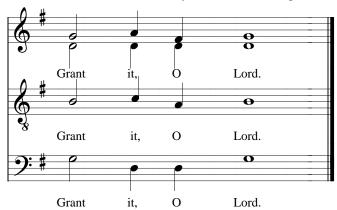
Deacon: That the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.



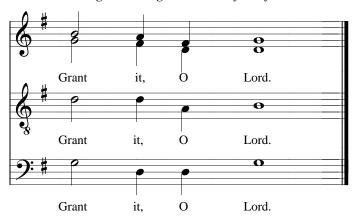
Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.



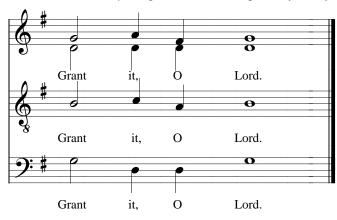
Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.



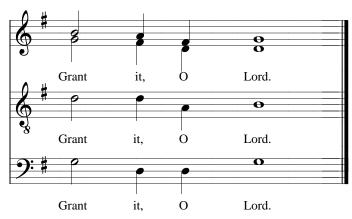
Deacon: All things that are good and beneficial for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.



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



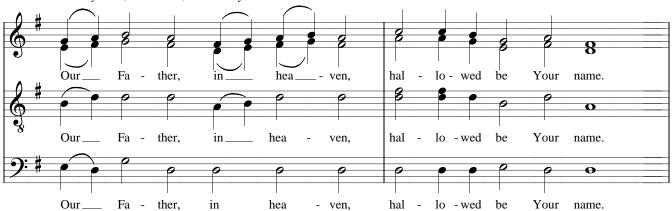
Deacon: A Christian end to our lives: painless, blameless and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.



Deacon: Having asked for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life to Christ our God.



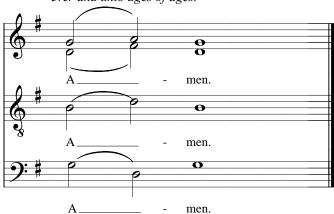
Priest: And make us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare call on, You, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

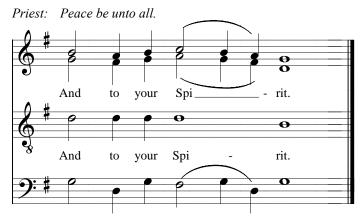






Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and ever and unto ages of ages.





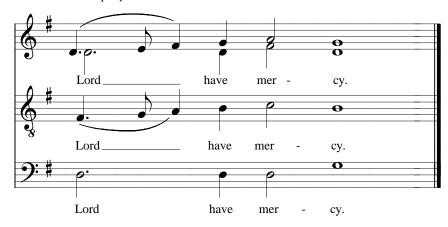
And to your Spi______- - rit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

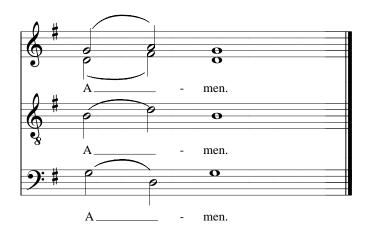


[The common cup is brought and the priest blesses it.]

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

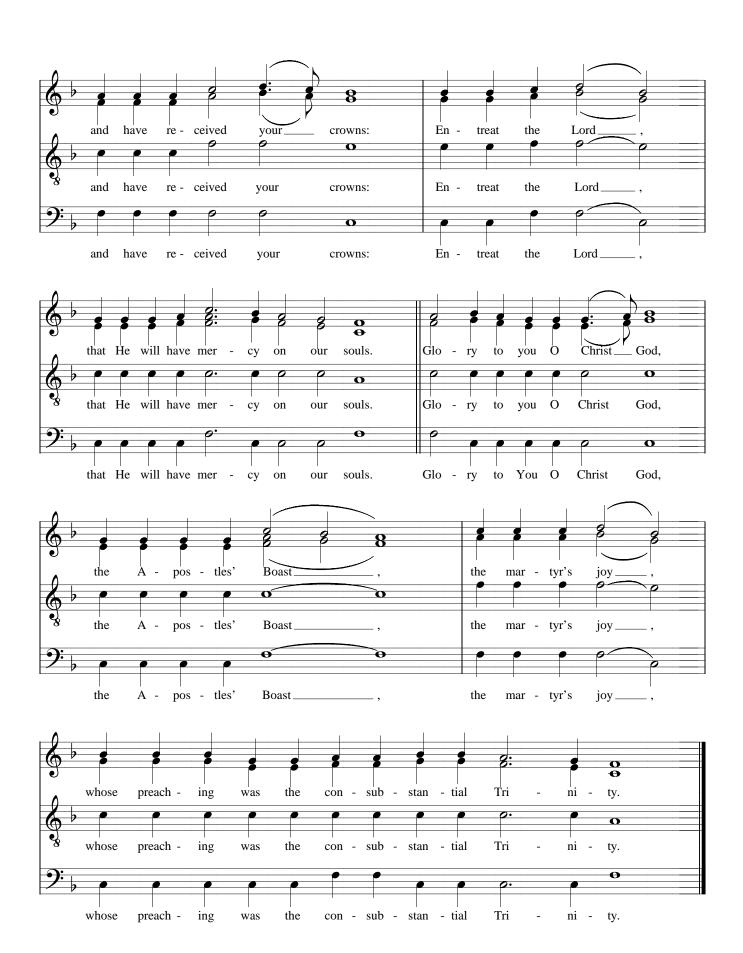


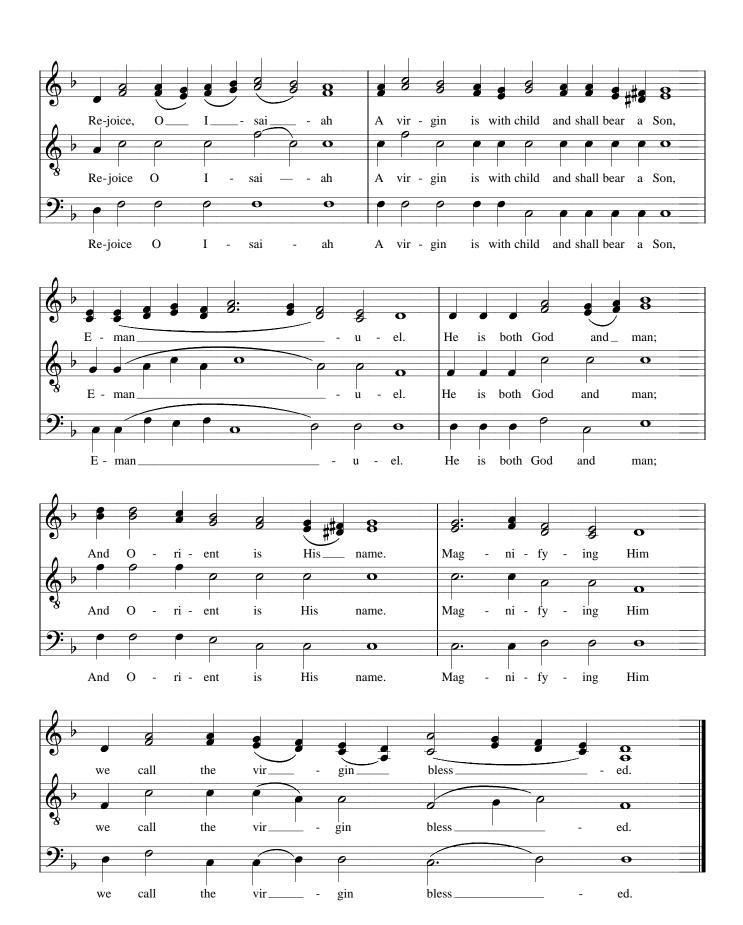
Priest: O God, who created all things by Your might, and made firm the world, and adorns the crown of all that You have made: Bless now, with Your spiritual blessing, this common cup, which You give to those who are now united for the community of marriage. For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



[Taking the cup, the priest gives it to them three times: first to the bridegroom and then to the bride. Then immediately the priest takes them and lead them in a circle three time around the tetrapod while all sing]







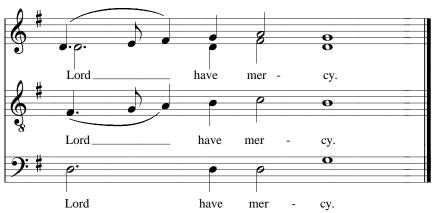
[Taking the crown of the bridegroom, the priest says:]

Priest: Be exalted like Abraham, O Bridegroom, and be blessed like Isaac, and multiply like Jacob, walking in peace, and keeping God's commandments in righteousness.

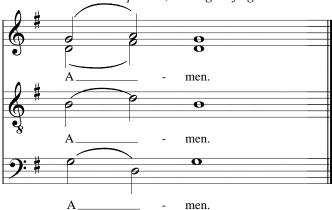
[Taking the crown of the bride, the priest says:]

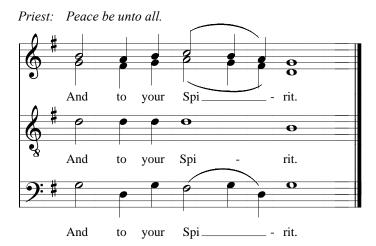
Priest: Bride, be exalted like Sarah, and exult like Rebecca, and multiply like Rachel; and rejoice in your husband, fulfilling the conditions of the law, for this is well-pleasing to God.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

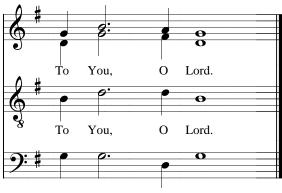


Priest: O God, our God, who came to Cana of Galilee, and blessed there the marriage feast: Bless also these Your servants, who through Your good providence now are united in wedlock. Bless their goings out and their comings in. Fill their life with good things. Receive their crowns into Your Kingdom, preserving them spotless, blameless, and without reproach, unto ages of ages.



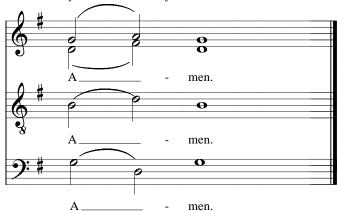


Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

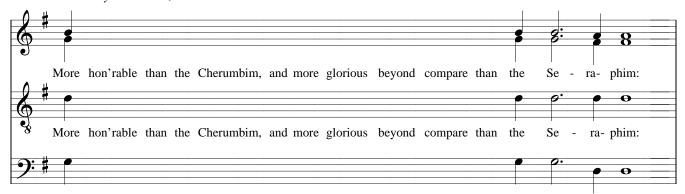


To You, O Lord,

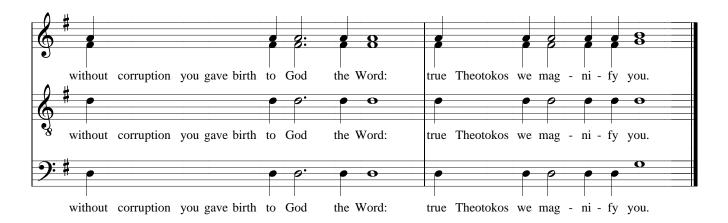
Priest: May the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial, and life-giving Trinity, one Godhead and one Kingdom, bless you; and grant you length of days, fair children, progress in life and faith; and fill you with all earthly good things, and make you worthy to enjoy the good things of the promise; through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints.



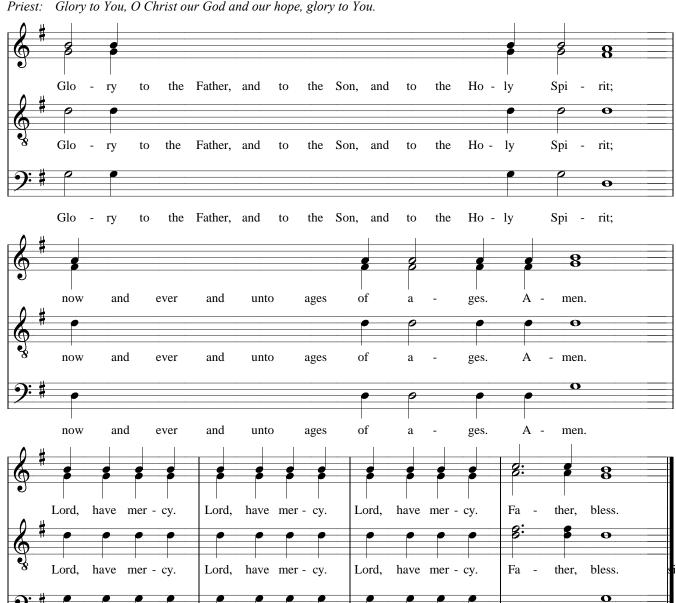
Deacon: Most holy Theotokos, save us!



More hon'rable than the Cherumbim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Se - ra-phim:

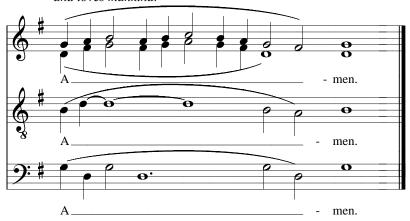


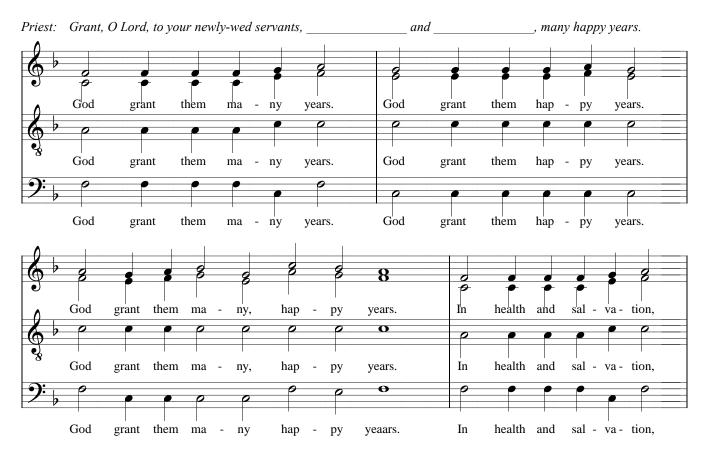
Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You.

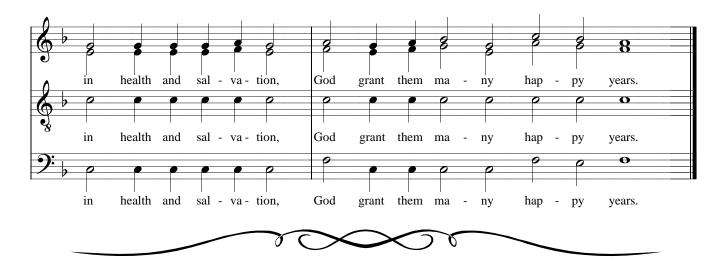


Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Fa ther, bless.

Priest: May He who by His presence in Cana of Galilee declared marriage to be honorable, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, Peter and Paul, whom we commemorate today, and all the apostles; of the holy, God-crowned kings Constantine and Helen, equal to the apostles; of the holy great martyr Procopius; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.







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