

The Mystery of Holy Anointing

Mount Saint Macrina
Uniontown, Pennsylvania

THE MYSTERY OF HOLY ANOINTING

STAND

At the place of the anointing, a table is prepared. If it is the custom, a vessel containing wheat is placed on this table. An empty shrine-lamp is laid upon the wheat for the oil of anointing. Again, if it is the custom, as many suitable instruments for applying the holy oil as there will be priests participating are placed around the container of wheat. A Book of Gospels and a cross are also placed upon the table. The priests vest in the epitrachilion and phelonion. The deacon, having received the blessing from the celebrant, vests in the sticharion and orarion. All stand around the table holding candles, if it be the custom. The deacon (or the principal celebrant, if there is no deacon), after placing incense into the censer, incenses the table on each side and all those present. The deacon (or celebrant, if there is no deacon) then begins:

Deacon: Reverend Father [*or:* Most Reverend (Arch)Bishop], give the blessing!

Celebrant: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy *on* us. (*Three Times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us
and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.

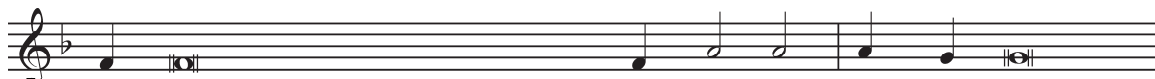
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord *have* mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*


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* evil.

Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

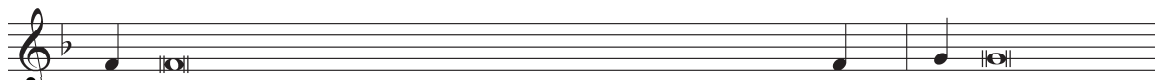
Response: 
A - men.



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,



have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(Two Times)*



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ever and

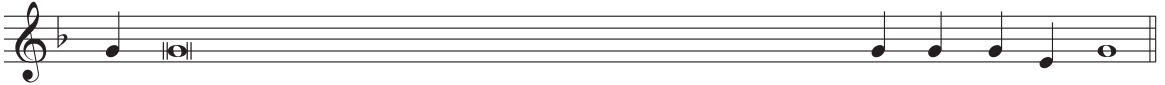


for - ev - er. A - men.

Each time with a reverence:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.



Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

Psalm 142

O Lord, listen to my prayer; turn your ear to my appeal.

You are faithful, you are just; *give* answer.

Do not call your servant to judgment
for no one is just in *your* sight.

The enemy pursues my soul;
he has crushed my life to *the* ground;
He has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead, long *forgotten*.

Therefore my spirit fails;
my heart is numb *within* me.

I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all *your* works.

I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out *my* hands.

Like a parched land
my soul thirsts *for* you.

Lord, make haste and answer;
for my spirit fails *within* me.

Do not hide your face
lest I become like those in *the* grave.

In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust *in* you.
Make me know the way I should walk:
to you I lift up *my* soul.

Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;
I have fled to you *for* refuge.
Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are *my* God.

Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level *and* smooth.
For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;
in your justice save my soul from *distress*.

In your love make an end of my foes;
destroy all those who oppress me for I am your servant, *O* Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. *Amen*.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, *O* God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, *O* God!

At the last, with melody:



LITANY

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

Response: ①

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: ②

Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. ①

Deacon: That this oil be blessed by the power, action, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. ②

Deacon: That God may visit his servants here present, and that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon them, let us pray to the Lord. ①

Deacon: That they, together with us, be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. ②

Deacon: Protect, save, have mercy, and preserve them and us, O God, by your grace. ①

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:

To you, O Lord.

BLESSING OF OIL

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy.

The celebrant reads the following prayer (Concelebrants read the prayer silently):

Celebrant: O Lord, through your abundant mercy and goodness, you heal our spiritual and bodily ills. Therefore, O Master, sanctify this oil that those who are anointed with it be healed and released from every suffering and defilement of flesh and spirit, and from all evil. In this, may your most holy Name, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glorified, now and ever, and forever.

Response:

A - men.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The faithful sing the Prokeimenon, and the lector chants the verse:

Prokeimenon - Tone 1 (Psalm 32:22,1):

May your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us, may your mer - cy
 be up-on us who have placed our hope in you.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones; praise from the upright is fitting.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Universal Letter of Saint James.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

SIT

The lector chants James 5:10-16:

Brothers and Sisters: As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Those who have endured we call blessed. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and have seen what the Lord, who is compassionate and merciful, did in the end.

Above all else, my brothers, you must not swear an oath, any oath at all, either “by heaven” or “by earth.” Rather, let it be “yes” if you mean yes and “no” if you mean no. In this way you will not incur any condemnation.

If anyone among you is suffering hardship, he must pray. If a person is in good spirits, he should sing a hymn of praise. Is there anyone sick among you? He should ask for the presbyters of the church. They, in turn, are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. This prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his. Hence, declare your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may find healing. The fervent petition of a holy man is powerful indeed.

Celebrant: + Peace be to you, reader!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

STAND

Alleluia - Tone 8 (Psalm 100:1):



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Verse: My song is of mercy and justice; I sing to you, O Lord.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spi - - - rit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Response: 
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The celebrant proclaims the holy Gospel (Luke 10:25-37) even when a deacon is serving:

On one occasion a lawyer stood up to pose him this problem: “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?” Jesus answered him: “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He replied: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said: “You have answered correctly. Do this and you shall live.”

But because he wished to justify himself he said to Jesus: “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied: “There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell prey to robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and then went off leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; he saw him but continued on. Likewise, there was a Levite who came the same way; he saw him and went on. But a Samaritan who was journeying along came on him and was moved to pity at the sight. He approached him and dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. He then hoisted him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, where he cared for him. The next day he took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: ‘Look after him, and if there is any further expense, I will repay you on my way back.’”

“Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?” The answer came, “The one who treated him with compassion.” Jesus said to him: “Then go, and do the same.”

Response:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

SIT

A homily may be offered at this time, during which the faithful are seated.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

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

Response:



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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, God's visitation, and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God here present, and let us all say:

Response:



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

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord our God send upon them the grace of deliverance, free them from illness, and raise them from their sickbed; let us all say: O Lord, hear us and have mercy!

Response:



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

Celebrant: For you are a merciful and loving God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - men.

STAND

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mer - cy.

Celebrant: O Uncreated and Eternal One, Holy of Holies, you sent your only-begotten Son to heal every infirmity and every wound of our souls and bodies. Send down your Holy Spirit and sanctify this oil, making it for your servants, about to be anointed, a perfect deliverance from their sins and an inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

For it is you, our God, who shows us your mercy and saves us; and we give glory to you, together with your only-begotten Son, and your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: A - men.

The celebrant continues:

Celebrant: Holy Father, physician of souls and bodies, you sent your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and to deliver us from death. [By this anointing,] Heal your servants of the spiritual and bodily ills which afflict them and restore them by the grace of your Christ, through the prayers of our most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; and through the prayers of all your Saints.

For you, our God, are the fountain of healing; and to you we give glory, together with your only-begotten Son and your consubstantial Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response:



The celebrant opens the Gospel Book, and holds it with the text downward. If there are concelebrating priests, they hold the Gospel Book. The celebrant says the following prayer:

Celebrant:

O Holy King, compassionate and most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, you do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather, that he repent and live. I do not place my sinful hand upon the heads of your servants who come to you in sin, asking from you, through us, the forgiveness of sins; rather, I place your strong and powerful hand which is in this holy Gospel [which my concelebrants hold upon your servants].

O God, our Savior, I pray and appeal to your merciful love for us all – a love which does not remember evil. Just as through your prophet Nathan you granted forgiveness of sins to the repentant David, and accepted the penitential prayer of Manasseh, now, because of your constant love for us all, receive these your servants who have repented of their sins, and forgive all their transgressions.

For you are our God, commanding us to forgive seventy times seven those who fall into sin. As you are great, so is your mercy, and to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever, and forever.


Response:





sing hymns to you and praise you con-tin - ual - ly. For you a-lone love us all.


Troparion of Unmercenary Healers - Tone 4:




O faith-ful heal-ers who worked for the communi-ty with-out pay, you were



foun-tains of heal - ing, for you were deemed worthy of mighty gifts from our




Savior, the ever-last-ing foun - tain. As to the zeal-ous work-ers, the Lord



said to you: Look, I have given you power over un - clean spir - its,



to cast them out and to heal ev-ry sick-ness and dis-ease. You were as zealous as



the a-pos - tles. As you lived up - rightly according to the com-mand - ments,

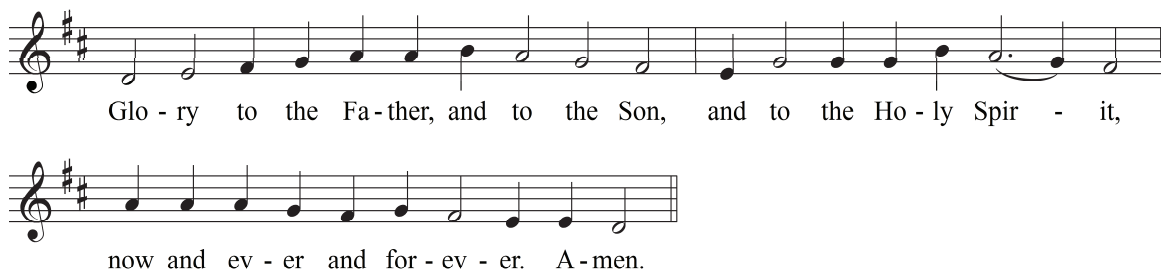


you re-ceived freely and gave free - ly, and healed the ills of soul and



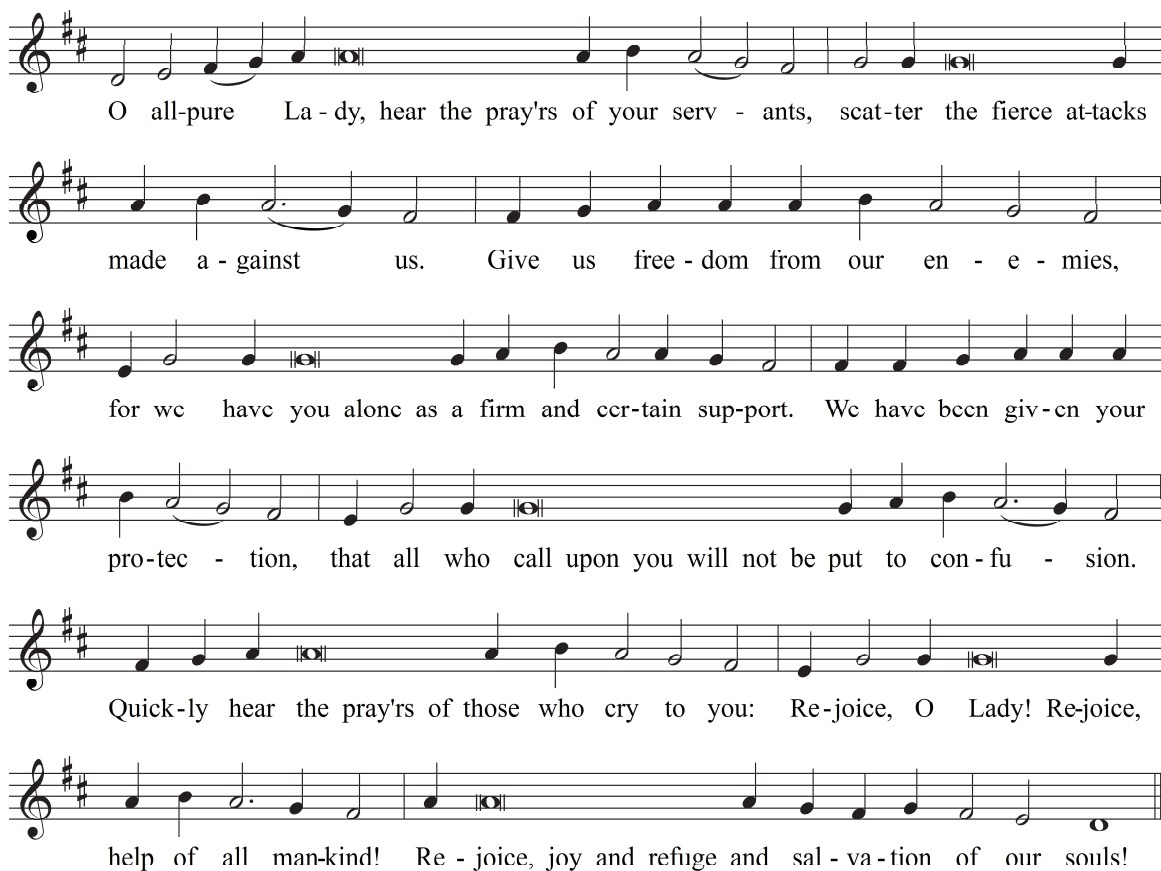
bod - y.

Cantor:



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion - Tone 4:



O all-pure La - dy, hear the pray'rs of your serv - ants, scat-ter the fierce at-tacks
made a - gainst us. Give us free - dom from our en - e - mies,
for we have you alone as a firm and cer-tain sup-port. We have been giv-en your
pro-tec - tion, that all who call upon you will not be put to con-fu - sion.
Quick-ly hear the pray'rs of those who cry to you: Re-joyce, O Lady! Re-joyce,
help of all man-kind! Re - joyce, joy and refuge and sal - va - tion of our souls!

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