

# BYZANTINE RENEWAL

## *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

Celebrated at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
in partnership with Silk Road Cultural Center



*May 17, 2024, Chicago, Illinois*

*Presiding Priest* | **Reverend Craig Mueller**

*Assistant to the Priest* | **Ryan LaHurd**

*Chanter* | **Raneem Salem**

*Reader* | **Samer Kanaan**

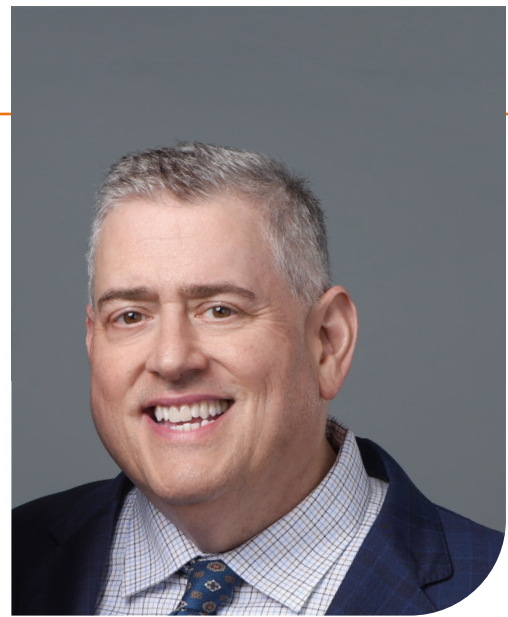
*Thurifer* | **Ernest Vasseur**

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## *Welcome from Jamil Khoury*

Founding Executive Artistic Director,  
Silk Road Cultural Center

*“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God’s presence with a song. Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.” Psalm 100:2-3*



Welcome to our inaugural Byzantine Renewal gathering! As we convene here tonight, we are actively shaping history.

You may be wondering: “What exactly is Byzantine Renewal?” Byzantine Renewal is an effort to develop a uniquely “Western Eastern Rite,” a liturgical practice that proceeds from Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic traditions and manifests in Western Christian churches, churches that adhere to sacramental worship, sacred ritual, and liberal values of openness and welcomeness.

At this nascent stage of our development, we are grappling with a few fundamental questions:

- Can an ancient liturgy of the Eastern Church be celebrated within a progressive Western Church denomination (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)?
- Can a space be created for Western Christians to participate fully, including eucharistically, in the beauty and brilliance of Eastern Christian worship?
- Can a space be created for Eastern Christians to reconnect with their faith after being ostracized for reasons of gender, sexuality, ethno-nationalism, and/or right-wing politics?

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I am a proud son of the Antiochian Orthodox Church, and I am in exile, not of my own accord. The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is my liturgical lodestar, the genesis from which I engage and interpret other liturgical traditions. Chrysostom composed a theological masterpiece, a stunning assertion of love for Jesus Christ. For liturgy to bring us closer to God, it must embody beauty, transcendence, salvation, and healing, prayer from the heart, be steeped in mystery, and glean more from the right side of the brain than the left. Moreover, it should foster an inviolable sense of the collective, emphasizing community over individuality. All key lessons from my Orthodox upbringing.

I hold to the aspirational vision of “One Church, Many Rites,” which includes the Byzantine Rite (the revered liturgies of St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great). Byzantine Renewal aims not to supplant existing practices and texts or diminish the beauty and sanctity of our beloved Western liturgies. The aim is to expand the ecclesiastical repertoire and deepen our faith. With divine grace, it performs a profound gesture of ecumenical love.

Just as some Orthodox parishes adhere to a Western Rite, I envision a future in which a network of progressive Western churches periodically celebrates the Byzantine Rite—annually, quarterly, or even monthly. That is my hope for this endeavor. The journey commences now.

Tonight’s gathering is a testimony to Reverend Craig Mueller’s invaluable partnership and brilliant contributions. Pastor Craig graciously joined me on this journey, sharing his wisdom, vast liturgical expertise, and unwavering passion for all things Byzantine. I am sincerely grateful for his dedication, kindness, discernment, and boundless generosity.

May God’s blessings perpetually grace Pastor Craig and the entire community of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Onward Byzantine Renewal!

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## *Welcome from Pastor Craig Mueller*

Lead Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

I am delighted to welcome you to this Byzantine Renewal liturgy tonight. When Jamil approached me several years ago to be a part of this project, I immediately responded with affirmation, anticipation, and joy.



A number of my personal values and interests intersect with this project:

- a. As a child encountering Lutheran worship, as a student in college and seminary, and for decades as a pastor, I have a lifelong love for liturgy and ritual. I believe communal liturgy has the potential to connect people to the divine presence, provide meaning for their lives, empower them for service in the world, and transform their perspectives and commitments.
- b. In the past decade, I have been drawn to Byzantine art and architecture and have traveled to Turkey, Greece, Italy, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Cyprus. I sense a strong spiritual connection to the Byzantine period, especially the mosaics, frescoes, and icons that are part of this tradition.
- c. For most of my life, I have resonated deeply with ecumenical and interfaith endeavors. Due to their commitment to catholicity and historic liturgies, I am especially drawn to Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal, and Orthodox expressions of Christianity.
- d. Finally, as an openly gay, married man, I am committed to the full acceptance of LGBTQ persons in the Church. I feel fortunate to be part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, where I am able to serve freely while being in a relationship. I appreciate liturgies that reflect inclusive language for human beings and expansive language for God.

Whatever your religious or spiritual background, whatever your gender identity, sexual orientation, or relationship status, you are welcome tonight!

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## *A Short Primer*

### Who Was St. John Chrysostom?

Born in Antioch, Roman Syria, in 347 A.D., St. John Chrysostom, also known as John of Antioch, emerged as a prominent Christian figure during the late 4th and early 5th centuries. His theological influence was profound, expanding significantly during his tenure as the revered Archbishop of Constantinople from 397 to 404 A.D. St. John Chrysostom's remarkable oratory skills and unwavering commitment to challenging corruption and abuses of power within the church left a lasting impact on Christian doctrines and ethics. Following his passing in 407 A.D. in what is today Gümenek Tokat, Turkey, the epithet "Chrysostom," meaning "Golden Mouthed," was posthumously bestowed upon him, underscoring his eloquence and influence on Christian teachings. In 438 A.D., St. John Chrysostom was declared a "doctor of the church." He is venerated as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Byzantine Catholic, Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopalian, and Lutheran churches.

### What is the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom?

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is a sacred Eucharistic celebration used in the Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic traditions. It was penned by Saint John Chrysostom himself in the early 5th century, during his tenure as the Archbishop of Constantinople, and stands as a poignant commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples and the momentous institution of the Eucharist. It is believed that through this liturgy, the faithful can participate in the mystery of Christ's sacrifice and receive Christ's body and blood through the consecrated elements of bread and wine. The liturgy's origins are steeped in the Old and New Testaments and reveal layers of historical and theological meaning. While attributed to St. John Chrysostom, some scholars have argued that theologians may have modified the liturgy over the centuries that followed, further enriching its spiritual tapestry.

## About Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Grounded in ancient practice, we are empowered by the Triune God to be open to the mystery by living our faith boldly in the world as transformative agents of welcome, justice, and healing.

Whoever we are, whatever our religious or spiritual background or how we feel about church, whatever the color of our skin, our sexual or gender identities, God welcomes us here, and His acceptance of us all compels us to stand against all forms of hate and prejudice.

We celebrate a multi-sensory liturgy based on ancient patterns and rituals that go back to the early centuries of Christianity. We gather each Sunday to hear the scriptures and wrestle with their meaning for our lives today. We share the sacred meal of bread and wine and depart to serve a world in need. Though ancient, worship is always fresh and new as the gospel of Christ comes alive for our contemporary context. Time unplugged from electronic devices allows reflection and centering. Open to the Mystery, we are empowered to live our faith boldly in the world.

## About Silk Road Cultural Center

Silk Road Cultural Center is an interdisciplinary arts organization rooted in Pan-Asian\*, North African, and Muslim experiences. We embrace the arts as a catalyst for connecting people, places, histories, and futures.

Founded in 2002 by husbands Malik Gillani and Jamil Khoury, SRCC began as an intentional and creative response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-South Asian rhetoric that would follow. Our focus quickly expanded beyond West Asia and North Africa to encompass the vast territory known historically as the Silk Road, a network of trade routes stretching from China to Syria and beyond.

Understanding that cultures are inherently linked and not ranked, our artwork explores the intersections of cultures without undermining the specificities of cultures. Through theatre, film, digital media, music, dance, literature, visual art, and food, we view art as both a crossroads and a destination; a sanctuary for healing ourselves, healing our communities, and healing our world.

*\*We define Pan-Asian as inclusive of all cultures that span the Asian continent, including their diaspora communities.*

### Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1218 West Addison Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60613  
773-248-1233  
office@htchicago.org



[www.htchicago.org](http://www.htchicago.org)

### Silk Road Cultural Center

150 North Michigan Avenue,  
Suite 1970  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312-857-1234  
info@silkroadculturalcenter.org



[www.silkroadculturalcenter.org](http://www.silkroadculturalcenter.org)

# The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Revised by Reverend Craig Mueller and Jamil Khoury

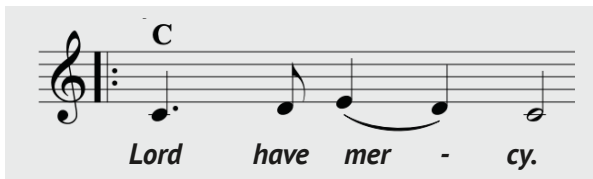
**PRIEST:** Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

## THE GREAT LITANY

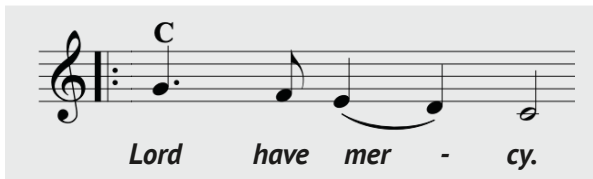
**ASSISTANT:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**



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

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**



**ASSISTANT:** For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**ASSISTANT:** For this holy house, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and in awe of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**ASSISTANT:** For faith communities everywhere and for the people of God in the service of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**ASSISTANT:** For our country, for our elected officials, and for those who bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**ASSISTANT:** For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**ASSISTANT:** For the health of creation, for favorable weather, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for temperate seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

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

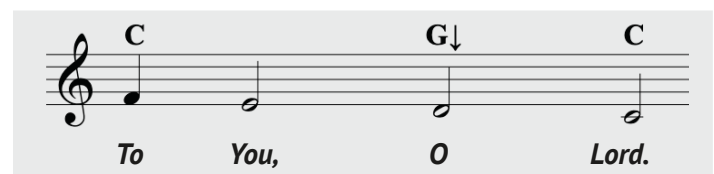
**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**ASSISTANT:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

**PRIEST:** Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos, Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

**PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.**



**PRIEST:** Lord our God, whose power is beyond compare, and whose glory is beyond understanding, whose mercy is boundless, and whose love for us is ineffable: look upon us and upon this holy house

in Your compassion. Grant to us and to those who pray with us Your abundant mercy. For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship to the Blessed and Holy Trinity, One God, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**



### THE RESPONSE

CHANTER: By the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

By the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

By the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

PRIEST: Lord our God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance; protect the whole body of Your Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; glorify them in return by Your divine power; and do not forsake us who hope in You. Lord, You have given us grace to offer these common prayers with one heart. You have promised to grant the requests of two or three gathered in Your name. Fulfill now the petitions of Your servants for our benefit, giving us the knowledge of Your truth in this world and granting us eternal life in the world to come. For You are a good and loving God, our rock and refuge, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

### THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

PRIEST: Master and Lord our God, You have established in heaven the orders and hosts of angels and archangels to minister to Your glory. Grant that the holy angels may enter with us that together we may serve and glorify Your goodness. For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship to the Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Blessed is the entrance of Your saints, always, now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest then raises the Holy Gospel Book and says:*

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

**PEOPLE: Come, let us worship and bow before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, wondrous among Your saints, who rose from the dead, to You we sing Alleluia.**

### THE THRICE HOLY HYMN

PRIEST: Holy God, You dwell among your Saints. You are praised by the Seraphim with the thrice holy hymn and glorified by the Cherubim, and worshiped by all the heavenly powers. You have brought all things out of nothing into being. You have created humankind in Your image and likeness and adorned us with all the gifts of Your grace. You give wisdom and understanding to the God-fearing and look with mercy on sinners. You have enabled us, Your lowly and unworthy servants, to stand before the glory of Your holy altar and to offer to You due worship and praise. Master, accept the thrice holy hymn also from the lips of us sinners and visit us in Your goodness. Forgive our sins, sanctify our souls and bodies, and grant that we may worship and serve You in holiness all the days of our lives by the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who have pleased You throughout the ages. For You are holy, our God, and to You, we give glory, Blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

CHANTER: Amen.

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 forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST: (chanted) Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed are You on the throne of glory, seated upon the Cherubim, always, now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHANTER: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

## THE HOLY EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: Let us be attentive! Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Book of Ephesians.

ASSISTANT: Let us be attentive!

READER: I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

PRIEST: (chanted) Peace be with you who reads.

CHANTER: And to your spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Psalm 74:12) God is our King before the ages; He has brought forth salvation in the midst of the earth.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Psalm 92:12) The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRIEST: Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the radiant light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our hearts and minds so that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence

for Your blessed commandments so that we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all things that are pleasing to You. For you, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You, we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us be attentive! Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

**PEOPLE: And with your spirit.**

PRIEST: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St John. Let us be attentive!

**PEOPLE: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.**

PRIEST: On the last day of the festival [of Booths, the great day, while Jesus was standing in the temple], he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**PEOPLE: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.**

## THE SERMON

*Preached by Pastor Craig Mueller.*

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST: Again, we bow before You and pray to You, O good and loving God. Hear our supplication: heal our souls and bodies, and grant that we may stand with confidence before your holy altar. Grant also, O God, growth in life, faith, and spiritual discernment to the faithful who pray with us, so that they may always worship You with reverence and love, and through Your grace and mercy partake of

Your Holy Mysteries, and become worthy of Your heavenly reign. And grant that always guarded by Your power we may give glory to You, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

### THE GREAT ENTRANCE

CHANTER: We who mystically represent the Cherubim sing the thrice holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity. Let us set aside all the cares of life that we may receive the King of us all, who comes invisibly escorted by the Angelic Hosts. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRIEST: Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord God, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

*The priest enters the sanctuary and places the holy gifts on the holy table*

### THE PETITIONS

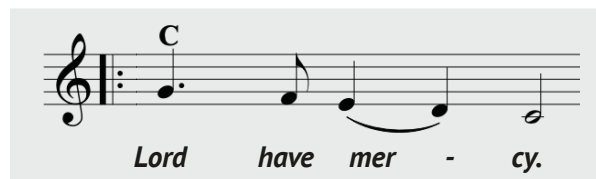
CHANTER: Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**



CHANTER: For the precious gifts here presented, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**



CHANTER: For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith and reverence, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

CHANTER: For the healing of the earth and for a just and equitable sharing of its resources, let us pray to the Lord.

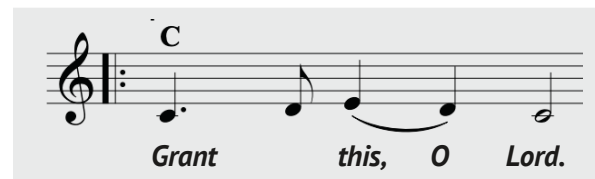
**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

CHANTER: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

CHANTER: For a perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless day, let us ask the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.**



CHANTER: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.**



CHANTER: For forgiveness and remission of our sins and failings, let us ask the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.**

CHANTER: For all that is good and beneficial to our bodies and souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.**

CHANTER: For the completion of our lives in peace and trust, let us ask the Lord.

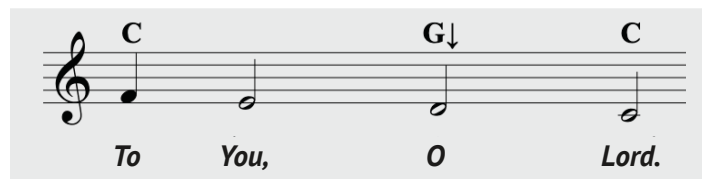
**PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.**

CHANTER: For a blessed and peaceful end to our lives, for a good account before the judgment seat of Christ, that we may be welcomed into the arms of God's mercy.

**PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.**

CHANTER: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos, Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

**PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.**



### THE PREPARATION OF THE HOLY GIFTS

PRIEST: Lord, God Almighty, You alone are holy. You accept our heartfelt sacrifice of praise. Let our fervent prayers reach Your holy altar. Make us worthy to find grace in Your presence so that our sacrifice will be pleasing to You and that Your good and gracious Spirit may abide with us, with the gifts here presented, and with all Your people. Through the mercies of Your only begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: Peace be with all.

**PEOPLE: And with your spirit.**

PRIEST: Let us love one another that with one heart and one mind we may confess.

*The Priest kisses the holy gifts, saying: I love You, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.*

*At this time, it is customary for the kiss of peace to be exchanged.*

**PEOPLE: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Trinity one in essence and undivided.**

PRIEST: The doors! The doors! In wisdom, let us be attentive!

### THE CREED

**PEOPLE: We 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 people 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 we believe 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.**

**And we believe in one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### THE OFFERING OF THE HOLY GIFTS

ASSISTANT: Let us stand in faith. Let us stand in awe. Let us attend that we may present the holy offering in peace.

**PEOPLE: A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.**

PRIEST: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**PEOPLE: And with your spirit.**

PRIEST: Let us lift up our hearts.

**PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRIEST: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: It is proper and right to worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.**

PRIEST: It is proper and right to sing to You, bless You, praise You, give thanks to You, and worship You in all places of Your dominion, for You are God ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, beyond comprehension and understanding, existing forever and always the same; You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. You brought us into being out of nothing, and when we fall, You raise us up again. For all these things, we thank You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit; for all things that we know and do not know, for blessings seen and unseen that have been bestowed upon us. We also thank You for this liturgy, which You are pleased to accept from our hands, though You are surrounded by thousands of archangels and tens of thousands of angels, by the Cherubim and Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring with their wings, singing the victory hymn, proclaiming, crying out, and saying:

CHANTER: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna to God in the highest.

PRIEST: Together with these blessed powers, O God of the universe, we also proclaim and say: You are holy and most holy, You and Your only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. You are holy and most holy, and great is the majesty of Your glory. You so loved Your world that You gave Your only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Christ, our redeemer, and healer, came and fulfilled Your holy purpose for us. On the night when He was betrayed when he gave Himself up for the life of the world, He took bread in His holy, pure, and blameless

hands, gave thanks, blessed, sanctified, broke, and gave it to His holy disciples and apostles saying: Take, eat, this is my Body which is broken for you for the forgiveness of sins.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: Likewise, after supper, He took the cup, saying: Drink of it all of you; this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: Remembering, therefore, this command of the Savior, and all that came to pass for our sake, the cross, the tomb, the resurrection on the third day, the ascension into heaven, the enthronement at the right hand of the Father, and the second, glorious coming. We offer to You these gifts from Your own gifts in all and for all.

**PEOPLE: We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Lord our God.**

PRIEST: Once again, we offer to You this spiritual worship, and we ask, pray, and entreat You: send down Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. And make this bread the precious Body of Your Christ.

**PRIEST and PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: And the wine in this cup the precious Blood of Your Christ.

**PRIEST and PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: Changing them by Your Holy Spirit, and also transforming us to be the body of Christ for the world.

**PRIEST and PEOPLE: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

PRIEST: Grant to those who partake of this meal healing, forgiveness, the communion of Your Holy Spirit, and a foretaste of the feast to come, joining our prayers with those who repose in faith, forefathers and foremothers, fathers and mothers, patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics, and for every

righteous spirit made perfect in faith, the entire people of God, and especially our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary.

CHANTER: It is truly meet and right to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever blessed, and all blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

PRIEST: For St. John the Prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; for the holy and glorious and most honorable apostles, and for all your saints through whose faithfulness, O God, bless us. Remember also all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection. And grant them rest, O eternal God, where the light of your countenance shines. We also offer to You this spiritual worship for the whole world, for the holy, catholic, and apostolic church, and for those living in integrity and holiness. And for those in public service; grant them, Lord, to serve and govern in peace that we may live in harmony with the earth and all creation. Remember also, Lord, those whom each of us calls to mind and all your people.

**PEOPLE: And all Your people.**

PRIEST: Remember, Lord, the city of Chicago, every city and country, and the faithful who dwell in them. Remember, Lord, the travelers, the sick, the suffering, and the captives, granting them protection and healing. Remember, Lord, those who do charitable work, who serve in Your holy churches, and who care for the poor and all who work for justice in all the earth. And send Your mercy upon us all. And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise Your most honored and majestic name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: The mercy of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

**PEOPLE: And with your spirit.**

ASSISTANT: For the precious Gifts offered and shared this day, let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

ASSISTANT: That our loving God, who has received them at the holy, heavenly, and spiritual altar as an offering of spiritual fragrance, may, in return, send upon us divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

ASSISTANT: Having prayed for the unity of the faith and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.**

ASSISTANT: We entrust to You, loving and compassionate God, our whole life and hope, and we ask, pray, and entreat: make us worthy to partake of your heavenly and awesome Mysteries from this holy and spiritual Table.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

PRIEST: Therefore, with confidence in your mercy and trusting in your tender, motherly care, we are bold to say:

**PEOPLE: 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.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power**

**and the glory of the Father and the Son**

**and the Holy Spirit, now and forever,**

**and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

PRIEST: Peace be with all.

**PEOPLE: And with your spirit.**

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.**

ASSISTANT: Guide the course of our life for our benefit according to the needs of each of us. Travel with those who travel and heal the sick, Physician of our souls and bodies. By the grace, mercy, and love for us of Your only begotten Son, with whom You are blessed together with Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

PRIEST: Lord Jesus Christ, our God, hear us from Your holy dwelling place and from the glorious throne of Your kingdom. You are enthroned on high with the Father and are also truly present among us. Come and sanctify us, and let Your pure Body and precious Blood be given to us by Your merciful hand and through us to all Your people.

Let us be attentive!

The holy Gifts are for the holy people of God.

*The priest takes up the Holy Bread in both hands and elevates it above the Holy Table saying:*

**PEOPLE: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The priest communes.*

### COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

**PEOPLE: I believe, and I confess, O Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is truly Your own immaculate Body and that this is truly Your own precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my sins, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance, and make me worthy to partake of these Your holy Mysteries for the forgiveness of sins and for life everlasting. Amen. Receive me today, Son of God, as a partaker of your mystical supper: for I will not speak of Your Mystery to**

**Your enemies, neither will I give You a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief, I will confess to You: Remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom. Not unto judgment nor unto condemnation do I partake of Your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.**

PRIEST: Approach with reverence, faith, and love.

*When administering Holy Communion, the priest says:*

The servant of God (Name) receives the Body and Blood of Christ.

### COMMUNION HYMN

CHANTER: Receive me today, O Son of God, as partaker of thy mystical supper; for I will not speak of thy mystery to thine enemies, neither will I give thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess thee: Remember me, O Lord, in thy kingdom.

*After the communion of the faithful, the people say:*

**PEOPLE: Having beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the Savior of the world. We venerate Your cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection. You are our God. We know no other than You, and we call upon Your name. Come, all faithful, let us venerate the holy resurrection of Christ. For behold, through the cross, joy has come to all the world. Blessing the Lord always, let us praise His resurrection. For enduring the cross for us, He destroyed death by death.**

PRIEST: Save, O God, Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let Your glory be over all the earth. Blessed is our God, Always, now and forever, and unto ages of ages.

CHANTER: Amen. Let our mouths be filled with thy praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Thy glory. For Thou hast permitted us to partake of Thy Holy, Divine, Immortal, and Life-giving Mysteries. Establish us in Thy sanctification, that all the day we meditate upon Thy Righteousness. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ASSISTANT: Let us be attentive! Having partaken of the divine, holy, life-giving, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

ASSISTANT: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.**

ASSISTANT: Having prayed for a holy and peaceful day, let us commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.**

ASSISTANT: We thank You, O Divine Lover of our souls, that on this day, You Have made us worthy once again of Your heavenly and immortal Mysteries. Direct our ways, establish us firmly in reverence of You, guard our lives, and make our endeavors safe through the prayers and supplications of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all Your saints.

PRIEST: For You are holy, and to You we give glory, Blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Let us go forth in peace.  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.**

PRIEST: Lord, bless those who praise You and sanctify those who trust in You. Save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power, and do not forsake us who hope in You. Grant peace to the world, to Your churches, to the clergy, to those in public service, to the armed services, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming

from You, Father of Lights. To You, we give glory, thanksgiving, and worship, Creator, Redeemer, Healer - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - now and forever and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: May the blessing of the merciful Lord God come upon you through divine grace and love always, now and forever, and unto ages of ages.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: Glory to You, O God, glory to You. May Christ our true God, wondrous among Your saints, who rose from the dead, loving and merciful God, have mercy upon us and save us through the intercessions of His most pure and holy Mother: the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the angels of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles; the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs; the holy and righteous ancestors Joachim and Anna; and all the saints.

**PEOPLE: Amen.**

PRIEST: May the Holy Trinity protect all of you. May the blessing and the mercy of the Lord be with you. Amen.

### **THE JESUS PRAYER**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have  
mercy on me, a sinner.**

### **PRAYER TO THE THEOTOKOS (MOTHER OF GOD)**

**Hail! Mary, full of grace, the Lord is  
with thee, O Virgin Theotokos: Blessed  
art thou among women, and blessed  
is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast  
borne the Savior of our souls.**



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