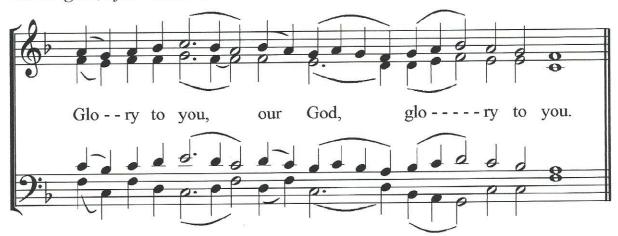
# SERVICE OF CROWNING or MARRIAGE

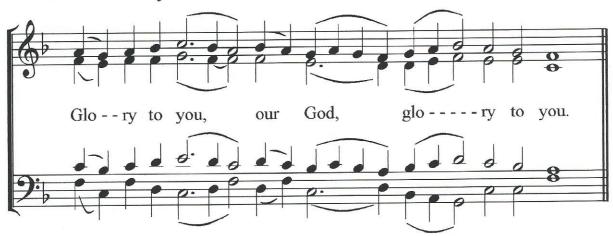
If they wish to be crowned on the same occasion, they remain in the Church and the service of Crowning begins. If they wish to be crowned after some days, they enter the Church from the Narthex with lighted candles, preceded by the Priest with the censer singing Psalm 127:

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

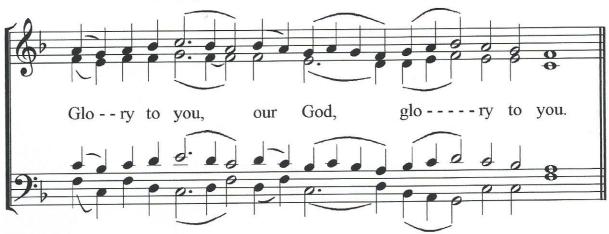
The Singers, after each verse:



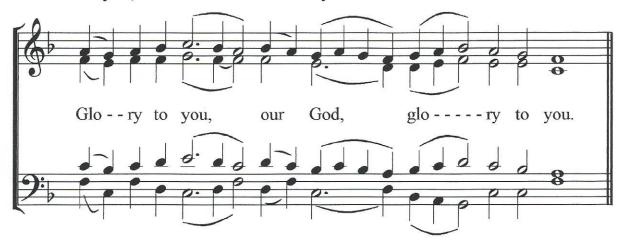
Who walk in his ways.



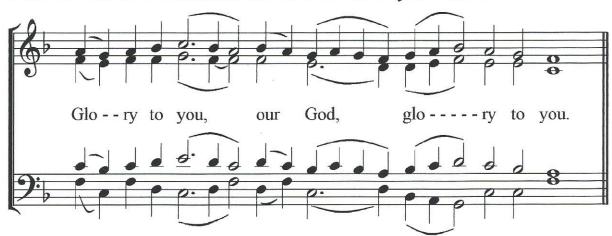
You will eat the fruits of your labours.



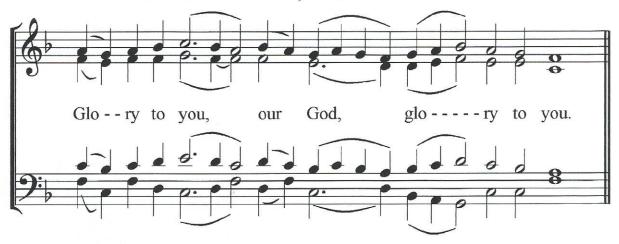
Blessed are you, and it will be well with you.



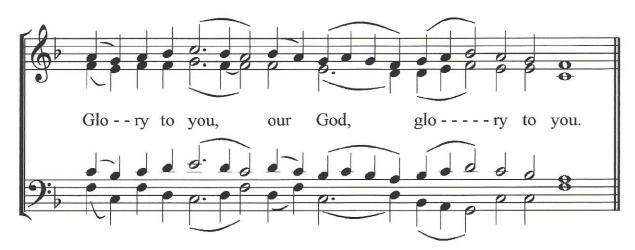
You wife will be like a fruitful vine on the sides of your house.



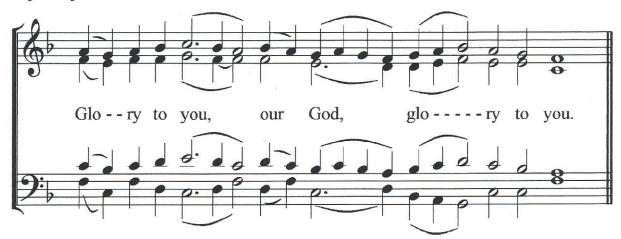
Your children like olive shoots round your table.



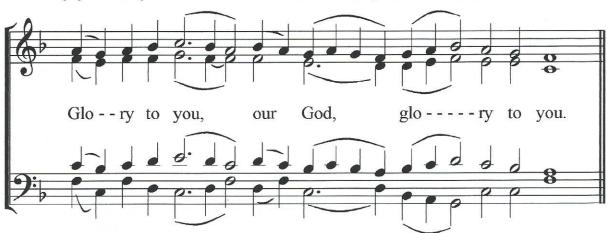
See how a man will be blessed who fears the Lord.



The Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life.



And may you see your children's children. Let peace be on Israel.



(In Russian practice these questions are then asked.

The Priest asks of the bridegroom:

N., do you freely and of your own will intend to take to yourself this woman M. whom you see before you?

The bridegroom answers:

I do, reverend father.

The Priest again:

You have not promised yourself to another bride?

The bridegroom:

I have not, reverend father.

Then the Priest enquires of the bride, saying:

N., do you freely and of your own will intend to take to yourself this man M. whom you see before you?

The bride answers:

I do, reverend father.

The Priest again:

You have not promised yourself to another man?

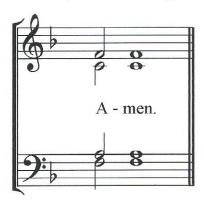
The bridegroom:

I have not, reverend father.)

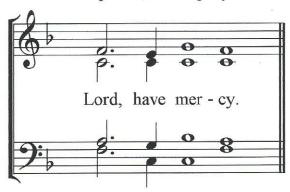
Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

The Priest, facing East and lifting up the book of the Gospel as usual, says in a clear voice:

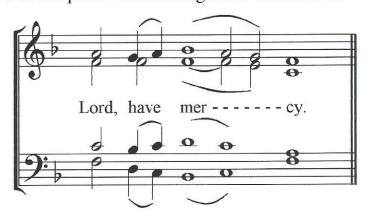
Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



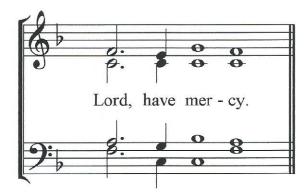
Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



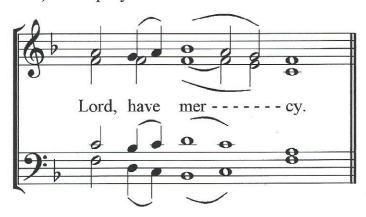
For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



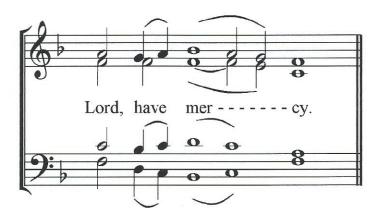
For this holy house, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.



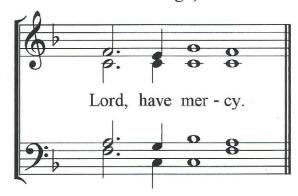
For our great lord and father, his all-holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch N, for our Most Reverend Metropolitan (or Archbishop or our Right Reverend Bishop) N, for the honoured order of presbyters, for the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.



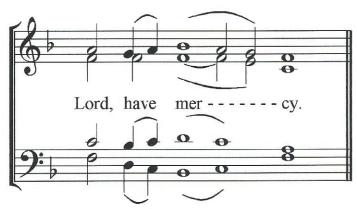
For our country, for our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Family, her Government, and all in authority, and for every Christian country, let us pray to the Lord.



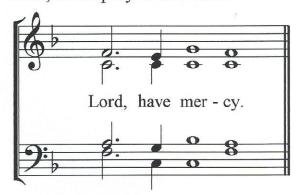
For the servants of God N, and M, who are now being joined with one another in the communion of marriage, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



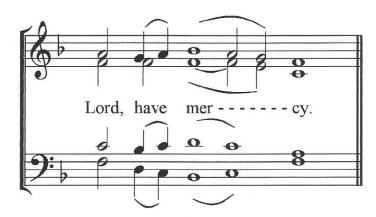
For this marriage to be blessed like that in Cana of Galilee let us pray to the Lord.



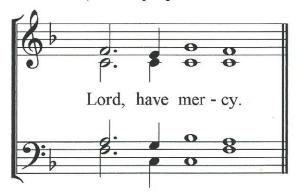
For them to be granted chastity and the fruit of the womb as may be expedient for them, let us pray to the Lord.



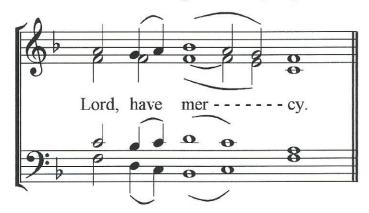
For them to be given the joy of seeing sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord.



For them to be granted the delight of the blessing of children and a life without accusation, let us pray to the Lord.



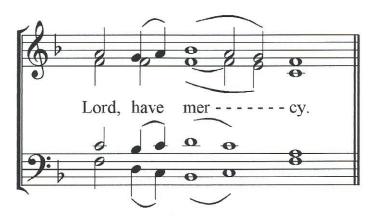
For us and them to be given every request that is for salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



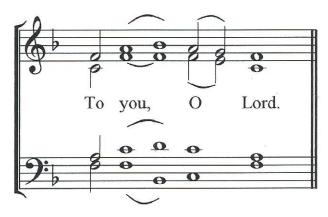
For their and our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and constraint, let us pray to the Lord.



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



Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



*Priest (aloud):* For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



The Priest says the following Prayer aloud:

God most pure, Author of all creation, through your love for mankind you transformed the rib of our forefather Adam into a woman and blessed them saying, 'Increase and multiply and have dominion over the earth', and declared them both to be one through wedlock, 'for because of this a man will abandon his father and mother and be attached to his own wife, and the two shall become one flesh' and 'those whom God has joined together, let no one separate'.

You blessed your servant Abraham and opened Sara's womb, making him the father of many nations. You gave Isaac to Rebecca and blessed her offspring. You joined Jacob with Rachel and from him revealed the Twelve Patriarchs. You yoked together Joseph and Aseneth and gave them as the fruit of their union Ephraim and Manassee. You accepted Zacharias and Elisabeth and declared their offspring to be the Forerunner. You made the Ever-Virgin spring from the root of Jesse according to the flesh, and from her you became incarnate and were born for the salvation of the human race. Through your ineffable gift and great goodness you were present in Cana of Galilee and blessed the marriage there, to show that lawful wedlock and the begetting of children that comes from it is your will.

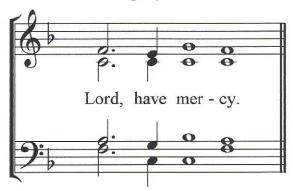
All-holy Master, accept the entreaty of us, your suppliants, and, as you were present there, be present here also with your invisible protection.

Bless this marriage and grant to these servants of yours, N. and M., a peaceful life, length of days, chastity, love for each other in the bond of peace, long-lived offspring, grace in their children and an unfading crown of glory. Grant that they may see their children's children. Preserve their marriage bed unassailed. Give them of the dew of heaven from on high and of the richness of the earth. Fill their houses with wheat, wine and oil and every good thing, so that they may also share them with those in need.

Grant also to those here with them all their requests that are for salvation. Because you are a God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, 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 for ever, and to the ages of ages.



Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



The Priest says the following prayer out loud:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, sacred Celebrant of the mystical and most pure marriage, Lawgiver of bodily marriage, Guardian of incorruption, loving Steward of our livelihood. In the beginning, Master, you fashioned man and established him as king of creation, and said, 'It is not good for man to be alone on the earth. Let us make him a helper like himself.' And taking one of his ribs you fashioned a woman. When Adam saw her he said, 'Now this is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. She will be called "woman" because she was taken from her man. For this reason a man will leave behind his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'. And 'Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate'. Now, Master, Lord our God, send down your heavenly grace also on these servants of yours, N. and M., and grant that this handmaid of yours may be subject in all things to her husband and that this servant of yours may be the head of his wife, so that they may live in accordance with your will.

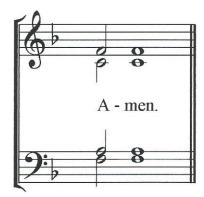
Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Abraham and Sara. Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Isaac and Rebecca. Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Jacob and all the Patriarchs. Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Joseph and Aseneth. Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Moses and Sepphora. Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Joachim and Anna. Bless them, Lord our God, as you blessed Zacharias and Elisabeth.

Preserve them, Lord our God, as you preserved Noë in the Ark. Preserve them, Lord our God, as you preserved Jonas in the belly of the whale. Preserve them, Lord our God, as you preserved the three holy Youths from the fire, by sending down on them dew from heaven.

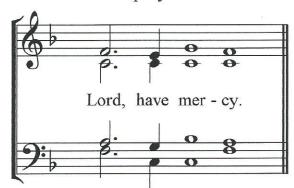
And let the joy come upon them that the blessed Helen had when she found the precious Cross.

Remember them, Lord our God, as you remembered Enoch, Sem and Elias. Remember them, Lord our God, as you remembered the holy Forty Martyrs, sending down on them crowns from heaven. Remember also, Lord our God, the parents who have brought them up, for the prayers of parents make firm the foundations of households. Remember, Lord our God, your servants the groomsmen and bridesmaids, who have come together to share this joy. Remember, Lord our God,

your servant N. and your servant M., and bless them. Give them the fruit of the womb, fair offspring, concord of soul and body. Exalt them like the cedars of Lebanon, like a well-cultured vine. Grant them rich harvest, so that, having all sufficiency for themselves, they may overflow into every good work that is also well-pleasing to you, and that they may see their children's children like newly planted olive trees all around their table. And, having been well pleasing to you, may they shine like beacons in heaven, in you our Lord, to whom belong all glory might, honour and worship, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

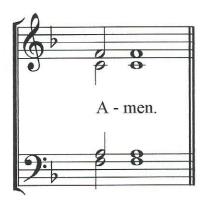


Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



And again the Priest says the following prayer aloud:

Holy God, who fashioned man from dust, and from his rib built up a woman and yoked her to him as a helper like himself, for it was not pleasing to your greatness for man to be alone on earth, do you, Master, now send forth your hand from your holy dwelling, and link [Here the Priest joins their right hands.] your servant N. and your servant M., because it is by you that a wife is linked to her husband. Yoke them together in oneness of mind. Crown them into one flesh. Grant them fruit of the womb, enjoyment of fair offspring. For yours is the might, and yours the kingdom, the power and the glory, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



The Priest takes the Crowns and first crowns the Bridegroom, saying:

The servant of God, N., takes as his crown the servant of God, M., in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

He says this three times as he makes the sign of the Cross on each of them.

Then the Priest crowns the Bride, saying:

The servant of God, M., takes as her crown the servant of God, N., in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

He says this three times as he makes the sign of the Cross on each of them. Then he places the crowns on the heads of the Bride and Groom, blessing them three times, chanting:

Lord our God, crown them with honour and glory.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone. [Psalm 20]

You have placed upon their heads crowns of precious stones. They asked you for life, and you gave it to them.

Singers:



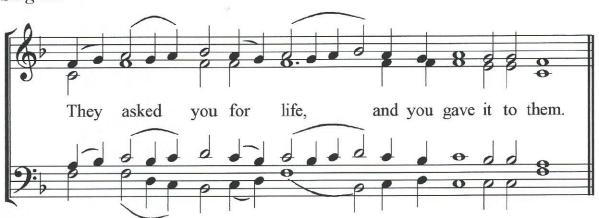
Reader, the Verse: For you will grant them blessing for age on age, and make them glad with the joy of your countenance.

## Singers:



Reader: You have placed upon their heads crowns of precious stones.





Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

[Chapter 5,20-33]

Deacon: Let us attend.

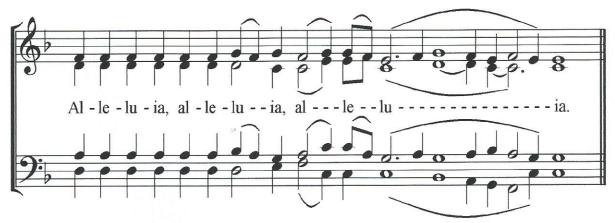
Reader:

Brethren, give thanks at all times for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, making yourselves subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Wives be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is head of the wife, as Christ too is head of the Church, and he is the Saviour of the body. But as the Church is subject to Christ, so wives must be also to their own husbands in Husbands love your own wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave everything. himself for her, that he might sanctify her, having purified her with the washing of water with a word, that he might present the Church to himself glorious, without spot or wrinkle or anything similar, but that she might be holy and unblemished. husbands must love their own wives like their own bodies. One who loves his own wife loves himself, for no one hates their own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as the Lord does the Church, because we are members of his body, from his flesh and 'For this reason a man will abandon his father and mother and be from his bones. attached to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, I mean concerning Christ and the Church. However let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife respect her husband.

Priest: Peace to you.

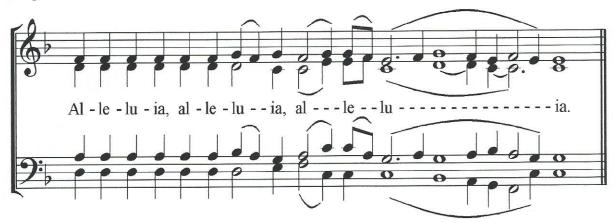
Reader: And to your spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia. [Psalm 11] (Tone 5)

Singers:



Reader, the Verse: May you, O Lord, guard us and protect us from this generation and for ever.

### Singers:



Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

People:



Priest: The Reading is from the holy Gospel according to John. [Chapter 2,1-11]



Deacon: Let us attend.

#### Priest:

At that time, there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the marriage. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no wine'. Jesus said to her. 'Woman, why do you trouble me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever he tells you, do it.' Now there were six stone water jars standing there for the Jewish ritual of purification, holding twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them to

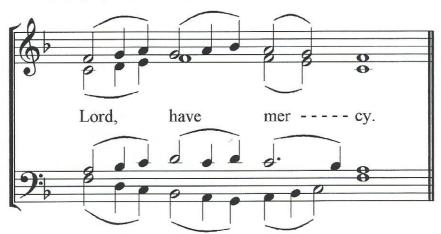
the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward of the feast. They took it. When the chief steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it had come from - but the servants who had drawn the water knew - he summoned the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone puts out the good wine first, and when people are drunk, then he puts out the worse. But you have kept the good wine until now.' This was the beginning of the signs that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and he manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him.



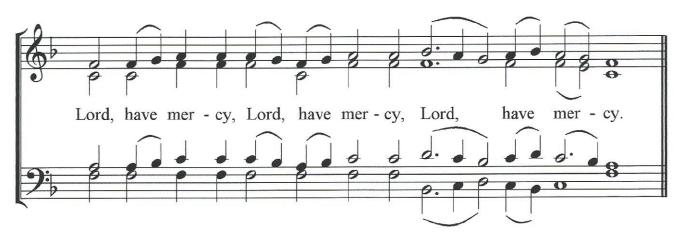
Deacon: Let us all say, with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.



Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.



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

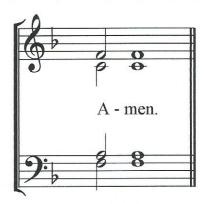


Also we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, N. and M., and for the people here present, who await your great and rich mercy.

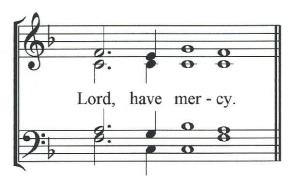


## Priest (Aloud):

For you, O God, are merciful, and love mankind, and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



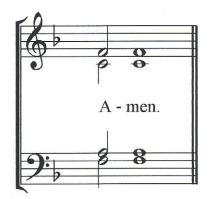
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



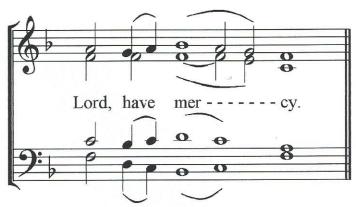
The Priest says this prayer:

Lord, our God, who in your saving dispensation were pleased in Cana of Galilee to declare marriage honourable by your presence, now also preserve in peace and concord your servants, N. and M., whom you have been well-pleased to join together. Declare their marriage honourable; keep their marriage bed undefiled; be well pleased for their life together to be without spot; and grant that they may reach a ripe old age, carrying out your commandments with a pure heart.

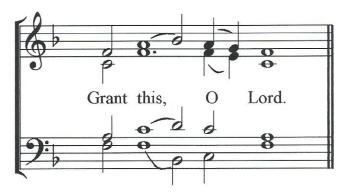
For you are our God, a God who has mercy and who saves, and to you we give glory, together with your Father who is without beginning, and your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



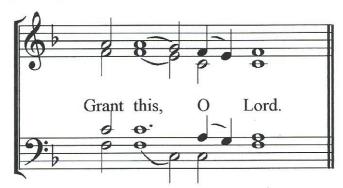
Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by your grace.



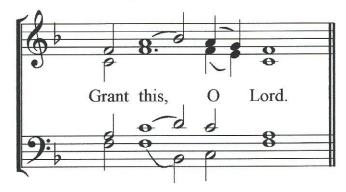
That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.



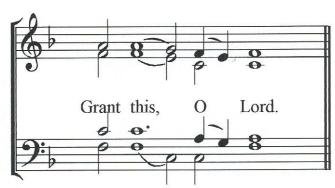
An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.



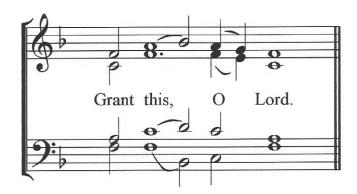
Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.



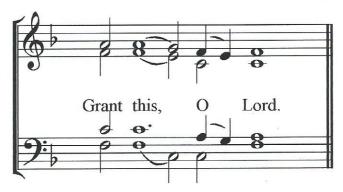
Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.



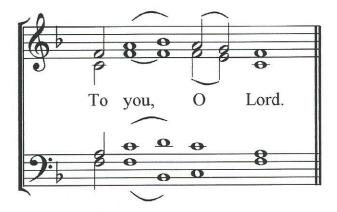
That we may live out the rest of our days in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.



A Christian end to our life, painless, unashamed and peaceful, and a good defence before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask.



Having asked for the unity of the faith and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ, our God.

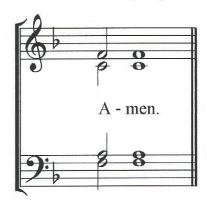


Priest (aloud): And count us worthy, Master, with boldness and without condemnation to dare to call upon you, the God of heaven, as Father, and to say:





Priest (aloud): For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

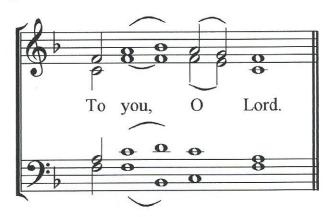


Priest: Peace to all.

# People:



Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.



The common Cup is offered.

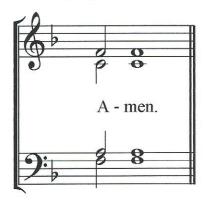
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



The Priest, blessing the Cup, says this prayer:

O God, who made all things by your strength, who made the inhabited world firm and adorned the crown of all that had been made by you, bless also with your spiritual blessing this common Cup, which you grant to those who have been joined in the communion of marriage.

For blessed is your name and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.



Then the Priest, taking the Cup in his hands, gives them to drink from it three times; first to the husband and then to the wife.

And the Priest at once takes them, while the Best man holds the crowns behind and over them, and leads them in a circle round the table three times.

Meanwhile the Singers chant the following Troparia.





Then the Priest raises the crowns. First that of the Groom, saying:

Bridegroom, be magnified like Abraham, blessed like Isaac and multiplied like Jacob, as you go your way in peace and carry out in righteousness the commandments of God.

Then that of the Bride, saying:

And you, Bride, be magnified like Sara, and rejoice like Rebecca and be multiplied like Rachel, rejoicing in your own husband, keeping the limits of the law, for so God has been well-pleased.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



And the Priest says this prayer:

God, our God, who were present in Cana of Galilee, and blessed the marriage there, bless these servants of yours also, who by your providence have been joined in the communion of marriage. Bless their goings out and their comings in. Fill their life with good things. Take up their crowns in your Kingdom, unspotted and unblemished, and keep them without offence to the ages of ages.

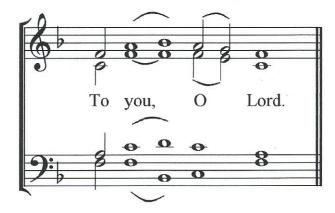


Priest: Peace to all.

People:



Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.



The Priest prays:

May Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial Trinity, origin of life, the one Godhead and Kingship, bless you and grant you long life, fair offspring, progress in life and faith, and fill you with every good thing on earth, and count you worthy of the promised good things of the enjoyment [of heaven], at the prayers of the Mother of God and of all the Saints.



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

### People:

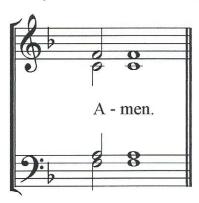
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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

Holy Father, give the blessing.

#### Priest:

May he who by his presence at Cana declared marriage honourable, Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles, of the holy Sovereigns crowned by God and Equals of the Apostles, Constantine and Helen, of the holy great Martyr Prokopios and all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.



# Hymn to the Mother of God

2.

Heark - en,

(Georgian Wedding Song: "You are a vine")

see,



