

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

1) *Curtain and Doors*

- a) When a bishop is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, the curtain is opened after Proskomedie and remains open until the end of the Divine Liturgy
- b) The holy doors are opened at the beginning of the service and remain open until the exclamation “Let us be attentive, Holy Gifts for the holy”. After that they are opened and closed as usual.
- c) Check with the Bishop to see if he will complete the Proskomedie at the Great Entrance or not.

2) *Coming to the Church*

- a) The clergy, led by the trikeri and dikeri, go in procession to the doors of the church to greet the bishop.
- b) The youngest priest bears the handcross on a tray. He presents the cross to the bishop.
- c) Then all the priests approach, according to their rank, to receive the blessing of the bishop, kissing his hand and the cross. The cross is returned to the tray.
- d) The Priests enter and form 2 columns along the main aisle

3) *Entering the Church*

- a) When the bishop enters the church, he is met by two deacons standing at the end of the Priest column with censers.
- b) They incense the bishop and the Deacon 1 intones: *May the Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see all the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life, now, and ever and unto the ages of ages.*

- c) The People sing, “Blessed be the Name of the Lord” 3 times.
- d) When the procession reaches the amvon of the Hierarch, the Bishop blesses the people who sing: Ton Despotin ke Arkhierea imon, Kyrie fylate eis polla eti, eis polla eti, eis polla eti, Despota.

4) Vesting the Bishop

- a) If the bishop has not vested prior to entering the church, the vesting takes place at this point. The Deacons stand at the head of the amvon and incense as each vestment is donned.

5) The Initial Incensing

- a) The deacon, receiving a blessing for the incense, incenses the altar, the holy icons, the bishops, the priests, the ministers and the faithful. If there are 2 Deacons, they stand side by side at the amvon while incensing.
- b) The Bishop, standing on the Amvon of the Hierarch, receives the trikeri and dikeri.
- c) The deacon, standing at the amvon, incenses him, intoning: *Let your light shine before people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven, always, now and forever and ever.*
- d) The bishop blesses with the trikeri and dikeri in the form of a cross to the east, the west, the south and the north, saying: Lord, Lord, look down from heaven and see; etc.

6) Preliminary Prayers

- a) The celebrant makes three bows and says: O God, be merciful to me a sinner. (3)
- b) Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come, and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save

our souls. The usual prayers continue . . . through Holy Master remember me.

- c) With the Bishop's blessing, the celebrant proceeds to the Holy with the Deacon and commands him to open the royal doors
- d) The Deacon then continues to the usual place and intones: *Master, give the blessing.* (Litany of Peace as usual. When commemorating the Pope, Patriarch and Bishop, turn to the Bishop as his name is intoned.)
- e) The first deacon bows to the bishop then stands before the icon of Christ. After the Antiphon, the second deacon goes to the usual place and offers the small litany following the Hymn of the incarnation.

7) Little Entrance

- a) The deacons enter through the south door. Deacon 1 receives the Gospel from the priest. Deacon 2 carries a censor in procession.
- b) Coming to the Bishop, "let us pray to the Lord and Master Bless the Holy Entrance" etc.
- c) The Deacon standing on the Solea raises the Gospel Book and intones: Wisdom! Stand aright! If it is a feast such as Easter and several others with its own response (such as in your choirs etc.), the deacon chants this first and then the Bishop calls all to worship with Come Let us worship etc Check this out ahead of time.
- d) Bishop blesses the four directions then enters the Sanctuary.
- e) The Deacon enters the sanctuary and places the Gospel on the Holy Table. Deacon 2 takes the censor and gives it to the Bishop as he enters the sanctuary.
- f) The Bishop places the dikeri on the altar and hands the trikeri to Deacon 1 who stands opposite the Bishop as he incenses the Holy Table. Deacon 1 continues to hold the trikeri at each point of incensation around the sanctuary and the icons.

Liturgy continues up to the singing of the Trisagion

8) The Trisagion

- a) People sing the Trisagion twice in the chosen language then the Bishop sings the third time in Greek.
- b) At the conclusion of the Bishop's verse the deacon intones: *Give glory to Christ our God.*
- c) The usual "Master proceed" etc. follows the intonation. The usual intonations for the reading of the epistle are taken.
- d) While Alleluia is being sung, the deacon takes the censer with incense and goes to the bishop for a blessing. Then he incenses the altar, the whole sanctuary and the bishop. Standing before the throne on high, the bishop says the prayer before the Gospel

9) The Gospel

- a) The deacon returns the censer to its accustomed place, and goes again to the holy table. He takes the Gospel from the first concelebrant and goes to the bishop. Bowing his head before him, he says:
- b) Deacon: Master, bless the reader of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist N.
- c) The deacon, bowing to the bishop, preceded by candle bearers and the sub deacons bearing the trikeri and dikeri, goes out before the royal doors. There, he stands on the amvon or in another assigned place for the reading of the Gospel.
- d) After the Gospel, the bishop descends from the throne on high and stands before the holy doors, blessing the people with the trikeri and dikeri.

10) The Great Entrance

- a) Following the homily the Deacon receives the blessing from the Bishop and prays the Insistent Litany. (Check beforehand if there will be any special petitions inserted and who will be praying them.)

- b) After the intoning “Wisdom”, a pitcher of water and towel is brought out for the Bishop to wash hands.
- c) After the deacon incenses, the usual prayers at the altar.
- d) Then they go to the Proskomedie. The bishop removes the vosdukh. He completes the prayers of the Proskomedie, placing particles from the prosphora, and makes the usual commemorations.
- e) Deacon: Master, lift it up.
- f) Bishop: Lift up your hands to the sanctuary and bless the Lord
- g) The Bishop takes the diskos and places it with care and reverence at the head of the deacon. The first concelebrant bows, takes the chalice from the bishop, and kisses his hand. Return the censor to the Bishop. The deacon, preceded by the servers, goes out the north door, followed by the first concelebrant.
- h) The second Deacon carries the large veil; the first deacon carries the diskos. Only 1 deacon need intone “*May the Lord God remember in His kingdom*” etc.

11) Prayers After the Great Entrance

- a) Bishop: Brothers and concelebrants, pray for me.
- b) Priests: The Holy Spirit come upon you and the power of the Most High overshadow you.
- c) The usual prayers continue through “Holy Master remember me”.
- d) The bishop goes to the royal doors and blesses the people with the trikeri and dikeri and the choir responds with Many Years.
- e) Bowing to the bishop, the deacon goes out before the royal doors and stands in his accustomed place.

12) After the Great Entrance

- a) Kiss of peace if more than 1 deacon.
- b) Deacon: Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.
Continues as usual until after the Creed

- c) Deacon: Let us stand well, let us stand with fear; let us be attentive to offer in peace the holy oblation and the Choir: The mercy of peace, the sacrifice of praise.
- d) The bishop turns to the people and blesses them with the trikeri and dikeri. Then continue as usual

13) The Anaphora

- a) The striking of the star on the diskos is done by Deacon 2 coming from the Bishop's left.
- b) The words of institution as usual.
- c) After the Bishop's incensation Deacon 1 continues the incensation of the Holy Table
- d) Deacon 2 receives the blessing and prays the Angel of Peace Litany.

Usual rubrics through communion. Deacons partake after Priests and deacon 1 combines the gifts

14) After Communion

- a) Bishop: Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance.
- b) Choir: Many years, Master. We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.
- c) The bishop turns again to the Holy Table and incenses three times, saying softly: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; above all the earth be Your glory.
- d) The bishop takes the holy diskos and places it at the head of the deacon.
- e) The deacon receives it with reverence. They turn to the doors, saying nothing, and the deacon goes and places the diskos on the Proskomedia.
- f) The bishop makes a reverence, takes the holy chalice, and turns to the royal doors.
- g) Bishop: Blessed be our God...
 - i) Bishop: Always, now and forever and ever.

- h) One of the priests takes the chalice with both hands from the hand of the bishop, kisses it and goes with it to the Proskomedion, and there he leaves the holy Gifts. The bishop then resumes the miter.
- i) Deacon 2 begins consuming the gifts.

15) Conclusion

- a) The deacon, unfastening his orar, goes out before the doors, to his place, and says:
- b) Deacon: Stand aright! Having received the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, and life-giving, awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us rightly give thanks to the Lord.

Usual prayers until the end.

16) Dismissal

- a) Bishop: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.
- b) Choir: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now forever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3) Give the blessing.
- c) Bishop: Christ, our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, and Saint N. (whose church it is, and whose day it is), and all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.
- d) Choir: Amen. Is polla eti, Despota.

17) Commemorations

The Bishop and Priest intone the Commemorations. Check in advance to be sure the deacon has no parts.

18) Postscript

- a) Greet Bishop and hear how well you served.
- b) Take vestments off and join the party.