

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

1) Preparing for the Liturgy

- a) When the priest and the deacon put on their vestments, they say only Let us pray to the Lord for each vestment.
- b) The priest, accompanied by the deacon, makes three small bows before the Holy Table, saying only: O God, be merciful to me a sinner. They kiss the Holy Gospel, the Holy Table and the hand cross.
- c) Then, having taken the priest's blessing, the deacon leaves via the northern door. Standing in his customary place before the royal doors, the deacon makes three small bows (saying nothing) and then exclaims: Master, give the blessing.

2) Initial Psalm and Prayers

- a) As the priest comes to the Royal Doors, the deacon bows slightly towards him and returns to the Altar through the southern door.
- b) Toward the end of the initial Psalm, bowing to each other, the priest returns to the Altar via the southern door the deacon leaves via the northern door and, says the Great Synapte. At the completion, the deacon makes a small bow and enters the Altar via the southern door as the 18th Kathisma is changed.

3) Transfer the Gifts to the Table of Preparation

- a) Having prepared the Gifts for transfer, the priest accepts the thurible from the deacon and censes the asterisk and small veil, then, preceded by the deacon

- who bears a lighted candle, the priest censes around the Holy Table. It is customary for the deacon to proceed opposite the priest, although not specified.
- b) After returning before the Holy Table and giving the thurible to the deacon, the priest bows profoundly²⁸³ making the sign of the Cross upon himself. Then, he takes the covered diskarion with both hands and, holding it to his forehead, proceeds along the right side of the Holy Table to the Prothesis table as the deacon leads with a lighted candle and censes.
 - c) *At the priest's discretion: If the priest considers this opportune, he performs the ceremony of placing the Lamb on the diskarion when the first antiphon is read, the ceremony of censing while the second antiphon is read, and the ceremony of transferring the Presanctified Gifts while the third antiphon is read.*
 - d) The small Synapte is said in each of the antiphons. The deacon leaves the Altar via the northern door; standing in his usual place, he says the Small Synapte. Upon completing the Small Synapte, the deacon returns to the Altar via the southern door.
 - e) Following the completion of the stikhologia, the choir begins the Psalm: Lord, I have cried ... and the deacon censes as prescribed, however, he censes the Presanctified Gifts three times, each time in strokes of three.

4) The Entrance

- a) When the: Glory ... now and ever ... is sung, the Holy Doors are opened and the Entrance is made in the usual way; the deacon then censes. If the Gospel is to be read, the deacon makes the Entrance with the Gospel.

- b) Following “O Joyful Light”, the choir sings the Prokeimenon of the first Prophecy. The deacon: Wisdom! The lector, standing midway between the two choirs and looking toward the east: A reading from Genesis. 295 The deacon, Let us be attentive. The lector reads the first Prophecy. Then the choir sings the second Prokeimenon.
- c) Immediately after the second Prokeimenon, the deacon, turning towards the priest, exclaims: Command! He gives the priest a lighted candle together with the thurible.
- d) After the priest finishes, the lector intones: A reading from Proverbs. The deacon: Let us be attentive. The royal doors are closed and the second Prophecy is read.
- e) After the reading of the second Prophecy is completed, the priest says: Peace to you ... The deacon: Wisdom, let us be attentive. The deacon takes a lighted candle, the thurible and approaches the priest. The deacon and servers stand with the candle(s) opposite the priest as the Let my prayer ascend verses are sung.
- f) If the feast of any Saint or the patron of the church falls during these days of Lent, then the royal doors are opened and the deacon says: Let us be attentive, and the lector reads the Prokeimenon of the Epistle. Then the Epistle and Gospel are read as usual.
- g) Otherwise, the Holy Doors are closed. The deacon takes leave of the priest, departs via the northern door and, standing in his usual place, says the ektené: Let us all say ... ;

5) *The Transfer of the Gifts to the Holy Table*

- a) As begins the hymn: Now the powers of heaven ... The deacon returns to the Altar via the northern door, opens the royal doors and, after taking the thurible, censes only the front of the Holy Table in three strokes; after that, he censes the Prothesis table and the priest. Then he stands at the priest's right before the Holy Table, holding the thurible with the ring finger of his left hand. With their elevated on high, the priest and deacon together say: Now the powers etc.
- b) Then they go directly to the Prothesis table. The priest takes the thurible and censes the Presanctified Gifts in strokes of three, still saying nothing. Taking the large veil, the priest places it on the deacon's left shoulder.
- c) Priest and deacon leave the Altar via the northern door; the deacon precedes and, walking backwards, censes the Holy Gifts. While so proceeding, they say nothing.
- d) After the cantors have completed the hymn: Now the powers of heaven ..., all make three great metanies. Then the royal doors and their curtain are closed.

6) *Praying Before Communion*

- a) The deacon shows reverence to the priest, departs via the northern door and, standing in his usual place, says: Let us complete our evening prayer ... Protect us, save us, have mercy ... The priest says the ekphonesis: And make us worthy, O Lord ... , and the people:
- b) Our Father ... The deacon binds his orarion about himself in the form of a Cross just as at the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
- c) The bowing of the head is made as usual, and following the prayer: Look down, O Lord Jesus Christ ...

the priest and deacon make three small bows. 309
Thus far, the priest does not uncover the Holy Gifts
but, placing his hand under the large veil, he touches
the life-giving Bread with awe and veneration. The
deacon says: Let us be Attentive!

- d) The priest removes the large veil, which he folds and
lays aside, and the asterisk. The deacon enters the
Altar through the southern door; standing at the
priest's right, he makes a small bow and then says:
Master, break the holy Bread, then The deacon pours
a little hot water into the chalice (if this infusion is to
be made), still saying nothing.

7) Communion

- a) The priest and deacon communicate themselves from
the Holy Lamb as prescribed.
- b) The deacon raises the diskarion over the chalice and
wipes the Particles into the chalice, saying nothing.
The acolyte opens the curtain of the royal doors; the
deacon bows three times and then opens the royal
doors.
- c) The priest bows, takes the chalice from the Holy Table,
and gives the chalice to the deacon. The deacon then
proceeds to the holy doors and, elevating the chalice,
exposes it to the people's view saying: Come to
receive!
- d) The transfer of the diskarion is made just as in the
Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

8) Dismissal

- a) The remaining portions of this service are performed
the same as in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
- b) After the Presanctified Liturgy has been completed,
the priest and deacon unvest, saying nothing.