

Deacon Dialogues During Liturgy



Choir: Amen.

At this point the doors are opened for the Small Entrance.

*The cantors sing the Third Antiphon or, if it is Sunday, the Beatitudes. At the "Glory be", the priest and the deacon, standing in front of the holy table, make three bows. The priest then picks up the book of the holy Gospels and gives it to the deacon. They walk to the right around the altar and out the north door, led by the candle-bearers, and in this way make the Small Entrance. Standing in the customary place, they both bow their heads; and the deacon says: **Let us pray to the Lord.** The priest says in a low voice the Prayer of the Entrance.*

Prayer of the Entrance:

Lord God our Master, Who established in heaven the ranks and armies of angels and archangels for the service of Your glory, grant that as we make our entrance, the holy angels may enter too, serving with us and joining in the praise of Your goodness.

For all glory, honor and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

At the conclusion of this prayer, the deacon points to the east with the orarion he is holding with three fingers of his right hand, and says to the priest:

Master, bless the holy entrance.

The priest, blessing, says:

repentance as a way for salvation. You have made us, Your humble and underserving servants, worthy to stand before the glory of Your holy altar at this very time, and bring You due worship and praise. Accept from the lips of us sinners the Thrice-holy Hymn and visit us in Your kindness, O Master. Forgive us all our offenses, voluntary and involuntary Sanctify our souls and bodies, and grant that we, in holiness, may serve You all the days of our lives, through the intercession of the holy Mother of God and of all the saints, who throughout the ages have found favor with You.

When the cantors come to the final troparion, the deacon, bowing his head and holding the orarion with three fingers of his hand, says to the priest:

Bless, Master, the time of the Thrice-holy Hymn.

The priest signing him, says aloud:

For You, our God, are holy, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

The deacon approaches the holy doors and adds, saying in a loud voice to those in the church:

And ever.

Choir: Amen.

As the Thrice-holy Hymn is being sung, the priest and the deacon join in the recitation and together make three bows before the holy table.*

The deacon then says to the priest:

Master, proceed.

They depart for the place on high. As the priest proceeds, he says:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: Master, bless the chair on high.

Priest: Blessed are You on the throne of glory of Your kingdom, Who sit upon the cherubim, always, now and for ever and ever.

Note that it is not proper for a priest to ascend to the place on high place or to sit there. He is to sit to the south of the throne on high.

At the conclusion of the Thrice-holy Hymn, the deacon comes before the holy doors and says:

Let us be attentive!

The priest says aloud: Peace be with all.

* The Thrice-holy Hymn may be found in the Supplement.

carnal desires and follow a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all that pleases You. For You, O Christ our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The deacon returns the censer to its customary place, comes to the priest and having bowed his head to him, holding the orarion with his fingertips and pointing to the book of the holy Gospels, says:

Master, bless the reader of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist N.

The priest signing him, says:

May God, through the intercession of the holy, glorious, all-praiseworthy apostle and evangelist N, grant that you proclaim the Good News with great power for the fulfillment of the Gospel of His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

And he gives him the holy Gospel.

The deacon says: Amen, bows to the holy Gospel, takes it and goes out through the holy doors. Preceded by candlebearers, he comes to the ambo and stands there, or at the appointed place.

to the life-giving Trinity, now lay aside all cares of life.

That we may receive the King of all, escorted invisibly by ranks of angels. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *Thrice.*

Then they go to the prothesis, the deacon leading. The priest incenses the holy things and prays in a low voice:

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

The deacon says to the Priest:

Master, lift it up.

Picking up the aen, the priest places it on the deacon's left arm, saying:

Lift up your hands toward the holy places and bless the Lord.

Lifting the holy diskos, he positions it with great care and reverence at the forehead of the deacon. The deacon also holds the censer with a finger of his right hand. The priest himself takes the holy chalice. Praying, they both leave by the north side, preceded by the candlebearer.

The deacon exclaims:

May the Lord God remember in His kingdom all you orthodox Christians, always, now and for ever and ever.

And the priest says:

May the Lord God remember in His

The noble Joseph took down Your most pure body from the tree. He wrapped it with a clean shroud and, with aromatic spices, placed it in a new tomb.

Taking the censer from the deacon's hand, he incenses the holy gifts three times and says:

Deal favorably, O Lord, with Sion in Your good pleasure and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt. Then You shall be well pleased with a sacrifice of justice, oblations and holocausts; then they shall lay calves upon Your altar.

Having given back the censer, he bows his head and says to the deacon:

Remember me, brother and fellow minister.

And the deacon to him:

May the Lord God remember your priesthood in His kingdom.

And the priest:

Pray for me, my fellow minister.

The deacon, holding the oration with three fingers of his right hand, bows his head and says to the priest:

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Priest: May this same Spirit act together with us all the days of our lives.

The deacon says to him:

Remember me, holy Master.

Priest: May the Lord God remember you in His kingdom, always, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen.

The deacon bows to the priest, leaves by the north door, and goes to his customary place to say:

Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the precious gifts that have been presented, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of Presentation, after placing the holy gifts on the holy table:

Remembering, therefore, this salutary commandment, and all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection on the third day, the ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand, and the second and glorious coming:

Exclamation:

We offer to You, Yours of Your own, in behalf of all and for all.

While this is being said, the deacon, having crossed his hands, elevates the holy diskos and the holy chalice. He then makes a reverent bow.

Choir: We sing of You, we bless You, we thank You, O Lord, and we pray to You, our God.

The priest prays: **Further, we offer to You this rational and unbloody worship; and we ask, we pray, and we entreat You: Send down Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Gifts here present.**

The deacon lays aside the ripidion and stands beside the priest. Both make three bows before the holy table.

Then, having bowed his head, the deacon with his oration points to the holy Bread and says in a low voice:

Master, bless the holy Bread.

The priest, having bowed, makes a sign of the cross over the holy Bread, saying:

And make this Bread the precious Body of Your Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Again the deacon says: **Master, bless the holy chalice.**

The priest, blessing it, says: **And that which is in this chalice the precious Blood of Your Christ.**

Deacon: Amen.

Again, the deacon, pointing to both holy Gifts, says:

Master, bless them both.

The priest, blessing both holy Gifts, says:

Changing them by Your Holy Spirit.

Deacon: Amen, amen, amen.

The deacon bows to the priest and goes back to the place where he first stood.

The priest prays:

So that they may be for the communicants sobriety of soul, forgiveness of sins, fellowship of Your Holy Spirit, fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven, confidence before You and not for judgment or condemnation.

Further, we offer You this rational worship for those who have gone to their rest in faith: forefathers, fathers, patri-

As this prayer is being said, the deacon, standing before the holy doors, arranges his orarion in the form of a cross.

Then the priest bows three times, and the deacon does the same in his place. Both say three times in a low voice:

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

When the deacon sees the priest extending his hands and touching the holy Bread to perform the elevation, he exclaims:

Let us be attentive!

The priest, elevating the holy Bread, exclaims:

The holy Things for the holy!

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

The choir sings the communion verse of the day or of the saint.

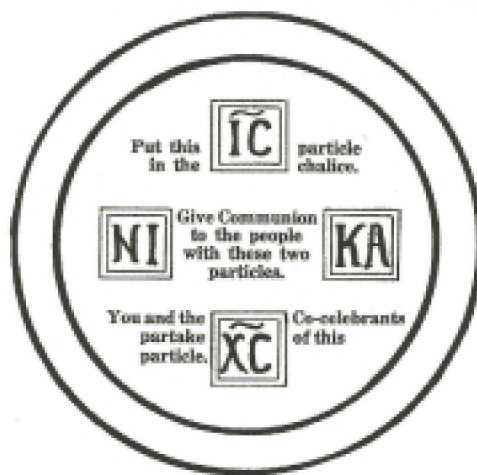
The deacon enters the holy sanctuary, stands to the right of the priest, and says:

Master, break the holy Bread.

The priest carefully and reverently breaks it into four parts, saying:

Broken and distributed is the Lamb of God— broken and not divided, always eaten and never consumed— but sanctifying those who partake.

Priest, when you break the holy Lamb, arrange the particles on the holy diskos with the cross face down, the sacrificial side face up, as when it was cut. Put IC on the upper side of the holy diskos, on the east; XC on the lower side, the west; NI on the north; KA on the south, as depicted here:



Having taken the IC particle, complete the holy chalice, and break the XC particle for the priests and deacons. Take apart the two particles NI and KA into as many small particles as you deem necessary for the communicants.

With his orarion, the deacon points to the holy chalice and says:

Master, complete the holy chalice.

The priest, taking the particle IC which lies above, makes a cross over the holy chalice with it, saying:

Fullness of the Holy Spirit.

and he puts it into the holy chalice.

Deacon: Amen.

[And taking some warm water, he says to the priest:

Master, bless the warm water.

The priest blesses and says:

Blessed be the warming of Your Holy Gifts always now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The deacon pours a little in the form of a cross into the holy chalice, saying:

Warmth of faith full of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

He puts away the warm water and stands a little apart.

The priest says: **Deacon, approach.**

The deacon approaches, makes a reverent bow and asks forgiveness.

The priest, holding the holy Bread, gives it to the deacon. The deacon kisses the bestowing hand and receiving the holy Bread, says:

Master, give me the precious and holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The priest says: **The precious and holy and most pure Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is given to the reverend deacon N., for the forgiveness of his sins and for life everlasting.**

The deacon walks to the back of the holy table and stands there with bowed head, praying together with the priest, I believe, O Lord...

In like manner, the priest, taking one particle of the holy Bread, says:

The precious and most holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, is given to me, N., a priest, for the for-

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord.

And they then partake with reverence and every care of the Particle which they hold in their hands.

Then the priest bows, takes the holy chalice together with a purificator in both hands and partakes of it, saying:

I, the servant of God, N., a priest, partake of the precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ; for the forgiveness of my sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

He wipes his lips and the rim of the holy chalice with the purificator he is holding in his hand, and says:

This has touched my lips and shall remove my wickedness and purge my sins.

Then he invites the deacon, saying:

Deacon, approach.

The deacon approaches, and bows once, saying:

Behold, I approach our immortal King and God.

Master, give me the precious and holy

Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The priest says: **The servant of God, deacon N., partakes of the precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of his sins and for life everlasting.**

After the deacon has received, the priest says:

This has touched your lips and shall remove your wickedness, and purge your sins.

Take note: [If there are others who want to partake of the Holy Mysteries, the priest breaks the two remaining particles of the Holy Lamb, NI and KA, into smaller pieces. [With a sponge] the deacon puts them into the holy chalice together with the other particles that were consecrated with the Lamb.

He covers the holy chalice with a small veil and places the asterisk and veils on the holy diskos.

The doors of the holy sanctuary are opened. The deacon, bowing once, reverently accepts the chalice from the priest, comes to the doors, raises the holy chalice, and shows it to the people, saying:

Approach with the fear of God and with faith.

Choir: Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, God the Lord has appeared to us.

Those who wish to receive communion then approach. After the prayer: I believe, O Lord, and confess... they go one by one and bow with all humility and reverence, keeping their hands crossed upon their breast. And in this manner they each receive the Holy Mysteries.

In distributing communion, the priest says: