Moleben to St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco

Senior Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, /
Comforter, Spirit of Truth, /
Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, /
Treasury of good things /
and Giver of life: /
Come and dwell in us, /
and cleanse us of all impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Thrice.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Thrice.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Lord have mercy. Twelve times.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth: hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. Thrice.

Senior Reader: In the **5th Tone**: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Stichos 1: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. *This is sung after each stichos*.

- Stichos 2: Surrounding me they compassed me, and by the name of the Lord I warded them off.
- Stichos 3: I shall not die, but live, and I shall tell of the works of the Lord.
- Stichos 4: The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Then the Choir sings the Troparia:

Tone 5:

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Lo, thy care for thy flock in its sojourn prefigured the supplications / which thou dost ever offer up for the whole world. /
Thus do we believe, having come to know thy love, /
O holy hierarch and wonderworker John. /
Wholly sanctified by God through the ministry of the all-pure Mysteries, / and thyself ever strengthened thereby, /
thou didst hasten unto the suffering, O most gladsome healer. /
Hasten now also to the aid of us //
who honor thee with all our heart. Twice
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Glory... Both now... Tone 5: Rejoice, impassible gate of the Lord! / Rejoice, rampart and protection of those who have recourse unto thee! / Rejoice, haven untouched by storms, / thou that knowest not wedlock, / who gavest birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God! / Fail not in thy supplications // for those who hymn and venerate thy birthgiving!
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Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

Ode I

Irmos, Tone 4:

Having traversed the depths of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, / Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness // by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of the Cross.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

It is good to hymn the favorites of God, among whose choir the holy John shineth forth upon us joyfully, comforting, healing those who call upon him, and teaching us by the example of his own most industrious life to be zealous in helping the unfortunate.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

O the desire of thy God-loving heart! Even in childhood thou didst wish to be a champion of the Truth. For thus wast thou captivated by the accounts of the wondrous saints, who spared not their own lives for the righteousness of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

For a time thou wast perplexed as to which path to choose for thyself—the military or the civil service. Yet thou didst sense within thy soul an even stronger calling: to commit thyself wholly to the service of the Holy Church of Christ.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: We boast in thee, O Theotokos, and have thee as an intercession unashamed before God. Stretch forth thine invincible hand and crush our enemies; and send down upon thy servants help from the Holy One.

Ode III

Irmos, Tone 4: Thy Church rejoiceth in Thee, O Christ, / crying aloud: /
Thou art my strength, O Lord, //
my refuge and my consolation!

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

We celebrate thy memory with gladness, O our archpastor and guide; and we venerate thy precious and incorrupt relics, asking thy supplications.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou didst assume the image of an angel, and, clad in the full armor of God, didst array thyself against the spirits of wickedness in high places, vanquishing them.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Thou didst not give sufficient sleep to thine eyes, nor didst thou lie upon a bed to take thy rest, emulating the fathers of old, O ascetic.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: In that thou art a garden of life, O Theotokos, speedily deliver me from mortal sin and the multifarious passions.

Then immediately....

Choir: Pray to God for us, / O Holy Hierarch Father John/ for we fervently flee unto thee, // the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Twelve Times.

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Sessional hymn

Tone 4 [Sticheron Melody]:

Thy supplications, O father John, / are like a pillar of fire reaching up to the heavens, / guiding the New Israel amid life's wanderings; / wherefore, unto us who honor thee grant patience, / and instill in our hearts gratitude to the Lord, / that we may not be condemned like those complainers, the lovers of the hotpots of Egypt, / but may be vouchsafed to enjoy // the incorruptible good things of the promised land.

Glory..., Now & ever...

O Mother of God, / thou art a citadel and sacred refuge for us / who are battered by the assaults of the enemy; / and, protected by thee, / we find forgiveness of sins // and boldness before the Lord.

Ode IV

Irmos, Tone 4: Beholding Thee lifted up upon the Cross, / O Sun of righteousness, / the Church stood rooted in place, / crying out as is meet: // Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

As the guide of a multitude of Russian archpastors, a leader of the Church Abroad, and a zealot of the monastic life, O holy John, thou hast been called a miracle in our days and one who standeth steadfastly in ascetic feats.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

"If ye wish to see a living saint, O ye people, hasten to the city of Bitol', and there look upon Father John!" Thus did an eminent Serbian archpastor say, enraptured by the character and works of John.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Young men from Carpatho-Russia, students at a Serbian seminary, have spoken of thee with great compunction, of thy self-abnegation and thy love for them, and how thou didst make the sign of the Cross over them as thou didst walk among them while they slept, protecting their rest.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: O all-pure Virgin Mother of our Lord, who takest pity even on the most sinful of thy servants, as an all-rich treasury of lovingkindness restore us who have beggared ourselves immeasurably, O helper and joy of all who sorrow.

Ode V

Irmos, Tone 4: Thou hast come, O my Lord, / as a light into the world: / a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance // those who hymn Thee with faith.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou wast a true emulator of Christ, O holy hierarch, who didst lay down thy life for thy flock and take thy place, unashamed, before the Chief Shepherd.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

The gift of healings was given thee even when thou wast a priest, and thou didst increase it in the days of thine episcopate; and thou dost perfect it in the life which is eternal.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Thou didst labor with the venerable Nahum in working healings, visiting the homes of the suffering with his holy icon.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: O Virgin Theotokos, good helper of the whole world, healer of our souls and bodies: Hearken even now unto us who pray to thee.

Ode VI

Irmos, Tone 4: Prefiguring Thy three-day burial, / the Prophet Jonah, praying within the sea monster, cried out: // Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King of hosts!

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Come, let us praise him who raised up a temple to the Theotokos, and who was himself a joy for all the sorrowful and a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou didst hasten to the homes of the suffering and to those lying ill in hospitals, of whom the Lord informed thee, that thou mightest administer to them His all-pure Mysteries.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Thou wast revealed as a mediator of health for sick children, O holy John, transforming the sorrow of their parents' souls into joy, and wast shown to be a much desired helper for those of all ages.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: We were deprived of an Orthodox homeland, O Mistress, when the waves of God's wrath passed over us, for we had become maintainers of vain and false things; but when our souls could stand no more, we remembered the Lord, that through thee our supplications and hymnody might reach Him.

Then immediately...

Choir: Pray to God for us, / O holy Hierarch father John/ for we fervently flee unto thee, // the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice*.

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion:

Tone 4: Following Christ, the Chief Shepherd, /
thou wast shown to be most excellent among hierarchs; /
for thou didst save thy sheep from destruction by the godless, /
arranging a tranquil refuge for them; /
and exercising unceasing care for thy flock, /
thou didst heal the infirmities of their souls and bodies./
Entreat Christ God now for us who fall down before thy precious relics, /
O father John, //
that our souls may be saved in peace.

Ikos: The heavens rejoice with us now, and the choirs of the saints receive a new and all-glorious adornment. The apostles greet a universal preacher; the ancient martyrs praise one who wondrously glorified their memory; holy hierarchs converse with their peer in eloquence and wisdom; the venerable marvel at a vigilant ascetic; holy kings honor an advocate for the restoration of Orthodox kingship; and the unmercenaries share their incorrupt and unapportioned reward with an unmercenary healer. As all-glorious as thy ministry was, O father John, so great was the multitude of wreaths fashioned for thee. But with the choirs of the saints pray to Christ God in behalf of us who fall down before thy precious relics, that our souls may be saved in peace.

Reader: The Prokimenon in the **Fourth tone:** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Choir: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Reader: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

Choir: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Reader: Precious in the sight of the Lord.

Choir: Is the death of His saints.

Senior Reader:

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Reader: Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His

power.

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Reader: Let every breath.

Choir: Praise the Lord.

Senior Reader: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Senior Reader [Facing East [the Icons] rather than the people]: The Lord said to the Jews that came to Him: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Ode VII

Irmos, Tone 4: The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace, / afire with love of piety more than with the flame, cried out: // Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Grace truly made thee a child of the light and the day; for, strengthened and deified every day by the holy Mysteries, thou didst render thy heart steadfast in the Lord.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

By thy merciful intercession both believers and unbelievers were saved and received the gifts of grace; and imparting healings in abundance, thou dost not cease to abide with those lost in the darkness of deception, but teachest them to hymn in Orthodox manner the one King of glory for all ages.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord wondrously bestowed help and consolation upon thy people, who had been driven into exile, granting thee to us as a helper, O holy hierarch John. Protect us even now from our enemies, visible and invisible, and from the hands of all who hate us.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: Our fathers sinned and were given into the hands of iniquitous foes more wicked than the earth had ever seen. What, then, shall we do who constantly multiply the offenses of our parents, O Mistress? And how will we avoid the snares of the cruel, if thou wilt not help those who repent and are in need of salvation?

Ode VIII

Irmos, Tone 4: Stretching forth his hands, / Daniel shut the lions' mouths in the pit; / and the young lovers of piety, / girded about with virtue, / quenched the power of the fire, crying out: // Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Thy heart hath reached forth to all who pray to thee with love, O holy hierarch John, and who remember the struggle of thy whole industrious life and thy painless and easy repose, O faithful servant of the all-pure Directress.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Naught could hinder thee when thou didst visit thy children in the hospital—neither rain, nor storm, nor gloom of night—betimes when no one summoned thee, O good shepherd; but thou didst foresee their need in spirit, the Lord aiding and pointing the way to thee, that all may glorify the God of our fathers.

We bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord.

When the Orthodox kingdoms on earth fell and were consigned to oblivion, thou didst not cease to pray that victory be given to right-believing kings, refusing to alter the ancient hymns, in that their dominion had been blessed by the God of our fathers.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: Thy soul doth magnify our Lord, O Mistress, and thy spirit rejoiceth in thy God, Savior and Son. How would we be able to chant this hymn if thou thyself hadst not been pleased to say prophetically, "All generations will call me blessed"?

Ode IX

Irmos, Tone 4: Christ, the Chief Cornerstone / uncut by human hands, / Who united the two disparate natures, / was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin. // Wherefore, in gladness we magnify thee, O Theotokos

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Hastening to the suffering, thou didst ever lay down thy life for thy sheep; wherefore, the gift of working miracles was bestowed upon thee, for at thy supplications the weak have been girded about with strength and through virtue the poor have been raised up from the dung-heap of the passions.

Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou didst emit a ray of light upon the people of thy flock, O father John, when their souls were troubled in the time of God's wrath; but the Lord was mindful of His mercy, and through thee comforted the lowly.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Direct our paths to the kingdom of God, O thou who didst serve Him in holiness and righteousness all the days of thy life; guide the minds of thy people to salvation, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, O blessed father John, that, chanting joyously, we may celebrate thy memory.

Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion: Direct our feet to the path of peace, O most pure Mistress, who unto men hast brought true Peace, thy Son, Who by the Cross abolished enmity and in triumph cast down the ancient adversary.

And then immediately...

Tone 8: It is truly meet to bless thee, the Theotokos, / ever-blessed and most blameless, and Mother of Our God. / More honorable than the Cherubim, / and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, / who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, // the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. **Thrice.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Thrice.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Then these troparia:

Tone 5:

Lo, thy care for thy flock in its sojourn prefigured the supplications / which thou dost ever offer up for the whole world. /
Thus do we believe, having come to know thy love, /
O holy hierarch and wonderworker John. /
Wholly sanctified by God through the ministry of the all-pure Mysteries, / and thyself ever strengthened thereby, /
thou didst hasten unto the suffering, O most gladsome healer. /
Hasten now also to the aid of us //
who honor thee with all our heart.

Glory... Both now... Tone 5: Rejoice, impassible gate of the Lord! / Rejoice, rampart and protection of those who have recourse unto thee! / Rejoice, haven untouched by storms, / thou that knowest not wedlock, / who gavest birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God! / Fail not in thy supplications // for those who hymn and venerate thy birthgiving!

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Forty times.

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Senior Reader: To Holy Hierarch Father John, let us pray.

Choir: Holy Hierarch Father John, pray to God for us!

Senior Reader: O beloved Hierarch John, while living amongst us thou didst see the future as if present, distant things as if near, the hearts and minds of men as if they were thine own. We know that in this thou wast illumined by God, with Whom thou wast ever in the mystical communion of prayer, and with Whom thou now abidest eternally. As thou once didst hear the mental petitions of thy far-scattered flock even before they could speak to thee, so now hear our prayers and bring them before the Lord. Thou hast gone over unto the life unaging, unto the other world, yet thou art in truth not far from us, for heaven is closer to us than our own souls. Show us who feel frightened and alone the same compassion that thou didst once show to the trembling fatherless ones. Give to us who have fallen into sin, confusion and despair the same stern yet loving instruction that thou didst once give to thy chosen flock. In thee we see the living likeness of our Maker, the living spirit of the Gospel and the foundation of our Faith. In the pure life that thou hast led during our sinful times, we see a model of virtue, a source of instruction and inspiration. Beholding the grace bestowed upon thee, we know that God hath not abandoned His people. It is rather we that have fallen from Him, and so must regain the likeness of Divinity as thou hast done. Through thine intercession, O blessed one, grant that we may increase our striving toward our heavenly homeland, setting our affections on things above, laboring in prayer and virtue, waging war against the attacks of our fallen nature. Invoke the mercy of God, that we may one day join thee in His Kingdom. For our deepest wish is to live forever with Him, with the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Amen.

The Dismissal

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy. Thrice.

O Lord, bless.

Senior Reader (Facing the East, rather than facing the people): O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the Holy Hierarch and Wonderworker Jonah, of the Holy Hierarch and Wonderworker John of Shanghai and San Francisco, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.

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