

*(aloud)*: That being always guarded by thy might, we may give glory to thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

*People*: **Amen.**

### CHERUBIC HYMN AND GREAT ENTRANCE

*The people begin the Cherubic Hymn to a slow and solemn melody:*

*People*: **We who in a mystery are icons of the cherubim, and sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity, let us now lay aside all earthly care.**

*While it is being sung, the deacon, saying in a low voice the fiftieth psalm, censes the holy table, the table of preparation, the high place, all the sanctuary and the holy doors; then, coming out through the holy doors, he censes the icon screen and the people, then enters the sanctuary. The priest, standing in front of the holy table, reads, in a low voice, the*

## PRAYER OF THE CHERUBIC HYMN

*Priest:* No one who is bound by the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach or draw near or minister to thee, O King of glory; for to serve thee is great and awesome even for the heavenly powers. Yet, in thine inexpressible and boundless love for mankind, thou didst become man without change or alteration and didst become our High Priest; and, as Master of all, hast committed to us the sacred ministry of this liturgical sacrifice without shedding of blood.

For thou alone, O Lord our God, rulest over things in heaven and things on earth, who art borne on the throne of the cherubim, the Lord of the seraphim and the King of Israel; thou alone art holy, and at rest amid the holy ones. Therefore I entreat thee, who alone art good and ready

to hear: Look down upon me, thy sinful and unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and heart from an evil conscience. And, by the power of thy Holy Spirit, enable me who am clothed with the grace of the priesthood to stand before this, thy holy table, and celebrate the mystery of thy holy and most pure Body and thy precious Blood.

For unto thee I come with bended neck and entreat thee: Turn not away thy face from me, nor reject me from among thy children, but count me, thy sinful and unworthy servant, worthy to offer thee these gifts. For thou art he that offers and he that is offered, both he that receives and he that is given, O Christ our God, and to thee we give glory, together with thy Father, who is without beginning, and thine all-holy, good and life-

giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*After the prayer and the censuring are completed, the priest and deacon say the Cherubic Hymn three times in a low voice as follows:*

*Priest:* We, who in a mystery are icons of the cherubim, and sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity, let us now lay aside all earthly care.

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

*They go to the table of preparation where the priest censes the Gifts, saying:*

*Priest:* O God, cleanse me a sinner (*thrice*).

*Having censed the Gifts, the priest hands the censer to the deacon.*

*Deacon:* Lift up, Master.

*The priest places the aër upon the deacon's left shoulder, saying:*

*Priest:* Lift up your hands to the holy things and bless the Lord.

*Then, taking the paten he places it with due reverence on the deacon's head, and the priest himself takes the chalice. Passing through the north door, they process around the church in the great entrance.*

*The deacon and the priest pray aloud for the hierarchy and the faithful according to the accepted local usage. At the conclusion the priest says:*

*Priest:* May the Lord God remember you and all Orthodox Christians in his kingdom, always, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The singers complete the Cherubic Hymn.*

*People:* **Amen.**

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

*The deacon enters the sanctuary and, standing to the right in front of the holy table, says to the priest as he enters:*

*Deacon:* May the Lord God remember thy priesthood in his kingdom.

*And the priest says to him:*

*Priest:* May the Lord God remember thy diaconate in his kingdom, always, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Then the priest places the chalice on the holy table, takes the paten from the deacon's head and places it to the left of the chalice, saying:*

*Priest:* Noble Joseph, having taken down thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in clean linen with spices, and mourning, laid it in a new tomb.

*Then he takes the veils from the paten and the chalice and lays them to one side on the holy table saying:*

In the tomb with the body, in Hades with the soul as God, in paradise with the thief, and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, thou fillest all things, O Christ, thyself uncircumscribed.