

## The Artoklasia (Blessing of the Loaves)

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray to you, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3) (*Chanted after each petition*)

**Priest:** Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop (N) and our Bishop (N), and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of sins of the servants of God who celebrate this sacred feast (*and he mentions them by name*) together with their spouses, children, parents, brothers, sisters and relatives, and let us ask for their health and salvation.

Again we pray for the preservation of this holy Church, and this city and parish, and every city and land, from the wrath of God, pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, invasion by enemies, civil war and sudden death, and that our God who loves mankind will be merciful, gracious and favourable toward us, and will fend off and turn away all the wrath and every illness that threatens us, and will deliver us from his righteous chastisement impending against us, and will have mercy on us.

Again we pray that the Lord our God will hear the voice of the petition of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Hear us, O God, our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who sail the distant seas, and be gracious and show mercy, O Master, upon our sins and be merciful to us. For you are a merciful God who love mankind, and to you we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**People:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest:** O most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the protection of the venerable bodiless powers in heaven; through the prayers of the venerable and glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist; of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles; of the holy, glorious and victorious martyrs; of our righteous and God-bearing Fathers; of our Fathers among the saints the great hierarchs and Ecumenical teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Almsgiver, Patriarchs of Alexandria; of our Father among the saints Nicholas, Bishop of Myra of Lycia the miracle-worker; of the holy and glorious great Martyrs: George the victorious, Demetrios the Myrrh-flowing, Theodore Tiron and Theodore the General, Menas the miracle-worker, and the priest-Martyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; of the holy and righteous ancestors of our Lord God Joachim and Anna, of Saint(s) (N), whose memory we celebrate, and of all your saints, make our petition acceptable to you; grant us the remission of our transgressions; shelter us under the cover of your wings; banish from us every foe and adversary; make our life peaceful; Lord, have mercy on us and your world, and save our souls, for you are a good God who love mankind.

*Priest Censes around the table with loaves, chanting*

**Priest:** Hail, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb; for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

[Note: During Bright Week (Week after Pascha) we chant: Christ has Risen...]

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** *Blesses the loaves, saying:*

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand: Do you, the same Lord, bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the olive oil, and multiply them in this city, country and parish, in the homes of those who have brought these gifts, and in all your world; and sanctify all your faithful servants who partake of them.

For it is you, O Christ our God, who bless and sanctify all things, and to you we ascribe glory, together with your beginningless Father and your all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

*Priest Kisses one of the loaves, chanting*

Wealthy ones went bankrupt and met starvation; but all those who seek the Lord, shall never be in want of any good thing. (3)