SPECIAL SERVICES

ARTOKLASIA
BLESSING OF THE FIVE LOAVES

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God...hear us and have mercy.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: Again we pray for the faithful and Orthodox Christians.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: Again we pray for our...and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: Again we pray for mercy...who celebrate this holy feast.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: Again we pray for the protection...and have mercy on us.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: Again we pray that the Lord...and have mercy on us.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: Hear us, O God our Saviour...and have mercy on us.
CHOIR: Three-fold Κύριε ἐλέησον.

PRIEST: For You are a merciful and loving God...and to the ages of ages.
CHOIR: Ἄμην (Amen).

PRIEST: Peace be with you all.
CHOIR: Καὶ τῷ πνεύματί σου (And with your spirit).

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.
CHOIR: Σοι, Κύριε (To You, O Lord).

PRIEST: Prayer (Most merciful Master...a good and loving God.)

(The priest censes crosswise the five loaves and congregation, singing):

Θεοτόκε Παρθένε, χαίρε Κεχαριτωμένη Μαρία (Hail, most blessed, Mary, Virgin Theotokos, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to the Saviour of our souls.)

(The priest places his hand on the loaves and prays):

PRIEST: Blessing Prayer (Lord, Jesus Christ our God...to the ages of ages.
CHOIR: Ἄμην (Amen).

PRIEST: Πλούσιοι ἐπτώχευσον (Plousii eptochfesan).
CHOIR: Πλούσιοι ἐπτώχευσον (Plousii eptochfesan). (2)

(Sung in the Second Plagal mode - Tone VI: Wealthy people have become impoverished and have hungered, but they who seek the Lord, shall not lack any good thing.)

The Artoklasia may be offered during the Divine Liturgy after lIo onoma Kyriou. It may also be offered at Great Vespers before the Aposticha and during the Litany. There are hymns that are chanted while the Clergy process to the table. If the Artoklasia is chanted during the Great Vespers prior to the Apolysis, the following blessing is offered:

PRIEST: The blessing of the Lord...to the ages of ages.
CHOIR: Ἄμην (Amen).

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Lord,...; Usual Apolysis.