To the faithful Orthodox reader:

This on-screen format attempts as much as possible to preserve the format of the original. For this reason, the typos that were in the original have been preserved. As tempting as it was to highlight certain portions that seemed particularly problematic, the was not done for the sake of preserving the original unadulterated and thus allowing the text to speak for itself.

As a general comment, it should be noted that the majority of the texts are borrowed from the typical Orthodox services, some portions being greatly abbreviated. The Scripture readings, of course, could not be appointed by the Typikon which would never foresee an event such as this. Therefore, they were selected for the occasion and the selection must be considered in that light.

This editor was troubled that the evidence strongly indicates to him that this service effectively equated all Christian traditions, both by the very act of carrying out such a service and by the content of the service itself. However, the reader must come to his own conclusion.
Blessed art Thou our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Blessed art Thou, Christ our God; Thou who hast into sages the fisherman turned, and hast the world captivated thereby as in a fisher’s net. Glory to Thee, O Merciful One.

When He descended from on High, the tongues He confused, the people He divided; but when the tongue of fire He distributed, to unity He called all thereby. Wherefore, we, with no voice of discord, the All-Holy Spirit glorify.

The grantor of all that is good the Holy Spirit is: the source of prophecy, the perfecter of priests; illiterates it taught wisdom, fishermen it made theologians; the Church is created and holds together. Glory to Thee, of the same power and of the same substance with the Father and with the Son, O Paraclete.

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them and have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered, the Lord is gracious and full of compas-
He hath given meat unto them that hear him: we will ever be mindful of his covenant.
He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.
The works of his hands are verity and judgment: all his commandments are sure.
They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.
He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

The chancellor

Have mercy on us, O god, according to Thy abundant mercy; we pray hear us with favour and have mercy.

Cathedral Choir

Lord have mercy. (thrice)

The Chancellor

Let us pray for the pious and Orthodox Christians.

Cathedral Choir

Lord have mercy. (thrice)

The Chancellor

Let us pray for our Archbishop and Patriarch Athenagoras.

Cathedral Choir

Lord have mercy. (thrice)

His Excellency, Terence Cooke, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York

Be mindful, O lord, of all the Church leaders who preach correctly the Word of Thy Truth and of Thy servant Patriarch Athenagoras. Be mindful, O Lord, of the Presbytery in the diaconate of Christ and of all priestly and monastic
Orders. Do not, we pray, reject anyone of us who now stand before Thy Holy Altar. Visit and strengthen us in Thy Goodness, our Lord. Become manifest to us by Thy many favours; make the seasons temperate and let Thy rain gently fall for our land to fruit. Bless this anniversary that in Thy goodness Thou hast allowed to be reached. Cease divisions among the Churches; stifle the rage of those who are against us; disturbances of heresies quickly dispel by the power of Thy Holy Spirit.

Illumine us with Thy light, and receive us in Thy kingdom. Grant unto us Thy peace and Thy love, Lord our God; Thou hast given us so much. Amen.

Cathedral Choir

Glory to Thee who hast shown forth the Light.
Glory be to God on High, and peace on earth, goodwill among men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we thank Thee for Thy great glory.
Blessed art Thou, Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name for ever. Amen.
Extend Thy mercy unto those who have come to Thy knowledge.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us.

Reader

My mouth will relate wisdom
Hear all ye nations.

The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews
chapter 7, verses 15-28
Brethren, this becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek.” On the one hand, a former command-
ment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect); on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath. Those who formerly became priests took their office without an oath, but this one was addressed with an oath, “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘Thou art a priest for ever.’ ” This makes Jesus the surety of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

Cathedral Choir

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest

Wisdom; let us stand up and attend to the Holy Gospel.

Bishop

Peace by to you all.

Cathedral Choir

And with thy spirit.
“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and lead them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but they sheep did not heed them. I am the door, if anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and will find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches the them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.
Sermon

In peace let us beseech the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For heavenly peace and for the salvation of our souls let us beseech the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us beseech the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Let us pray.

Thou, Christ our God, who do not shun from receiving a sacrifice of praise and a worship to Thy pleasure offered by those who call upon Thee from the depths of their hearts; Thou who in prayer Thyself asked the heavenly Father: Holy Father, keep these my disciples united into one as thou and I are. Preserve, we pray, the Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras the First, in the service of Thy will that all the Holy Churches of God be united; also preserve in sanctification our people present here and now. And strengthen us at all times and under all circumstances so that we may attend to Thy righteousness, be guided to Thy will, and after having done all that is pleasing to Thee be rendered worthy of standing on Thy right when Thou come to judge the living and the dead. Those of our brothers who are in captivity, we pray, free;
those in sickness, visit; those in danger at sea, steer safely; all the souls that have departed this life in the hope of life everlasting lay to rest under the light of Thy countenance; grant a favourable ear, we pray to all those who are in need of Thy help. For Thou art the granter of all that is good, and to Thee we ascribe the glory together with Thy Father without beginning, and Thy all-Holy, Good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and ever.

Amen.

The Patriarch's Anthem

Grant a long life, Lord our God, to our holy divine master, and Archbishop, the Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras the First. Preserve him, our Lord, for many, many years to come.

(thrice)

The Dismissal

(W hile Archbishop Iakovos is giving the Dismissal, the choir prays to God to grant him, in return for his blessing the people, a long and spiritually fruitful life.)

Our Master and Archbishop preserve, our Lord, for many years to come.

Τελοσ και τω θεο δοχα.

The above Ecumenical Doxology was offered at the Greek Orthodox Archepiscopal Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City on January the 26th, at eleven o’clock, to celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of His
Holiness Athenagoras I, the Ecumenical Patriarch, on the Throne of St. Andrew.

The following church leaders participated (alphabetically):
  His Grace Stephen F. Bayne, Jr. Episcopal Bishop
  His Excellency Terence Cooke, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York
  Dr. R. H. Edwin Esby, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches
  Dr. R. H. Robert J. Marshall, President of the Lutheran Church in America
  The Most Rev Metropolitan Philip, Archbishop of the Syrian Antiochian Church of New York and North America

Host Prelate: His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos

[Background photos are taken from secular coverage of the event. Depicted are the officiating participants.]