



■ “Glory to God in the highest...”

Thanksgiving and Glorification to our Lord for All of His Mercies*



Staretz Nektary would time and again remind his spiritual children to give thanks to our Lord for all of His mercies.

As an example of sincere gratitude, he would refer to St. Eleazar of the Skete of Anzersk.

One night, St. Eleazar went out onto the balcony of his cell and, contemplating the beauty and tranquility of the Skete's natural surroundings, was moved to tears.

And from the depths of his heart, which was filled with Divine love, came forth a deep sigh:

“O Lord, such beauty You have created for us! By what means and in what way can I, wretched worm that I am, give thanks to You for all of the great and abundant mercies You have bestowed upon me?”

The power of the Saint's sigh and prayer opened the heavens, and before his eyes there appeared myriads of radiant Angels chanting the

Great Angelic Doxology: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.”

A voice said to the Saint:

“You also, Eleazar, give thanks to your Fashioner and Creator with these words of glorification.”

And Staretz Nektary added with a sigh:

“Today's generation has ceased addressing prayers of thanksgiving to our Lord, and limits itself





to addressing Him only with constant requests, like an ungrateful beggar.”



(*) Source: “Consolation and Edification,” vol. IX (January 2017), p. 8. Translated from the Greek, *Holy Elders of Optina: St. Nektary* (Kalamos: Hieras Mones Osiou Symeon tou Neou Theologou, 2003), p. 304.