

## **GREAT VESPERS - Meatfare and Post Feast of the Encounter**

**Priest:** Glory be to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

Come, let us adore the King Our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

### **PSALM 103**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

You are very great, O Lord my God;

Clothed in pomp and brilliance;  
Arrayed with light as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,  
Covering Your lofty halls with water,

You make the clouds Your conveyance;  
You surge on the wings of the wind.

You make spirits Your messengers,  
And flaming fires Your attendants.

You settle the earth on its firm foundation;  
It shall stand unmoved from age to age.

May the Lord's glory endure forever:  
May the Lord rejoice in His works.

He looks upon the earth and makes it quake;  
He touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:  
I will praise my God as long as I last.

Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him:  
And I will rejoice in the Lord.

May sinners vanish from the earth,  
And may the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord,  
O my soul!

The sun knows the time of its setting.  
You establish darkness, and it is night.

How great are Your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom You have wrought them all.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory be to You, O God! (*3 times*)

### **LITANY OF PEACE**

**Priest:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most holy Pontiff **[N]** Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most blessed Patriarch **[N]**, our most reverend Metropolitan **[N]** the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray

to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

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

**Priest:** For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

*(stand)*

**KATHISMA**

Blessed is the one – Alleluia

Who has not walked in the counsel of the wicked.....Alleluia

For the Lord knows the way of the just,  
But the way of the wicked shall be lost .....Alleluia

Serve the Lord with fear,  
Exalt in Him with trembling .....Alleluia

Blessed are those  
who trust in Him .....Alleluia

Arise, O Lord!  
Save me my God! .....Alleluia

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever  
Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.(3X)

**O Lord I Have Cried to You** (Psalm 140)  
**(Tone 3)**

O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.  
Hear me O my Lord!  
O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.  
Give heed to the voice of my prayer  
When I call upon you.  
Hear me, O my Lord.

Let my prayer rise like incense before You;  
And the lifting of my hands like an evening sacrifice.  
Hear me, O my Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth  
And a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,  
From finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,  
Let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me;  
May the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.  
Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

My words will be heard, for they were sweet.  
As a lump of clay broken on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.  
In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set for me,  
And from the stumbling-blocks of the wicked.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets,  
While I remain alone until I can escape.

### **PSALM 141**

With my voice I cried to the Lord  
With all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplications;  
Before Him I declare my distress.

When my breath was escaping me,  
Then you knew my paths;

On the road upon which I was walking  
They set up snares for me.

I looked to my right and observed.  
There was no one to take care of my life.

I cried out to You, O Lord, and said  
You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Listen to my supplication,  
For I am laid very low.

Deliver me from my oppressors,  
For they have overwhelmed me.

Lead my soul forth from prison  
That I may give thanks to your name.

The just shall gather around me  
When You have been good to me.

**PSALM 129**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
O Lord hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive  
To the voice of my prayer.**

***(Tone 3)***

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,  
the power of Death has been vanquished  
and the deceit of the devil has been destroyed.  
Therefore, mankind, saved by faith,  
offers You hymns of praise forever.

**If You mark iniquities, O Lord, who can stand?  
But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.**

O Lord, all creation has been enlightened by Your resurrection,  
and Paradise has been reopened;  
therefore, all creation extols You  
and offers You hymns of praise forever.

**I have waited for You as You have commanded;  
My soul patiently relies on Your promise,  
for it has trusted in the Lord.**

***(Tone 1)***

O Simeon, tell us whom you are joyfully carrying into the Temple.  
To whom are you saying:  
Now You may dismiss your servant, O Lord,  
because my eyes have seen my Savior.  
He is the child born of the Virgin.  
He is the Word and God of God.  
O Lord, who for our sake was incarnate and saved the world,  
to You we bow in worship.

**From the morning watch until night  
Let Israel trust in the Lord.**

***(Tone 6)***

When You shall come to render just judgment, O righteous Judge,  
You shall sit upon your throne of glory.  
A river of fire shall flow before your judgment seat;  
the powers of heaven will be there with You.  
Filled with fear, all humanity will be judged according to their deeds.

At this hour, O Christ, spare us,  
and because of your great love,  
grant that the faithful who pray to You  
may be given a place with your chosen ones.

**For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

The books will be opened and the secrets laid bare  
before your awesome judgment seat;  
and the whole valley of tears shall resound with a dreadful sigh,  
when it sees the sinners sent to eternal punishment by your just judgment,  
and hears them weeping hopelessly.  
Therefore, O God of mercy, we pray to You:  
Spare us who sing to You, O only Good One.

**Praise the Lord, all the Nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.**

The trumpets shall sound and the tombs shall be opened;  
humanity shall come forth trembling.  
Those who have done good shall rejoice,  
as they await the reward they shall receive.  
Those who have done evil shall shriek in terror,  
as they are sent to punishment and separated from the elect.  
In your goodness, spare us, O Lord of glory,  
and grant that we may enjoy a place with those who love You.

**Strong is the love of the Lord for us; eternally will His truth endure.**

I weep and lament  
when I think of the outer darkness and eternal fire,  
together with Hades, the worm that consumes, and the gnashing of teeth,  
the unceasing grief that falls upon those who have sinned without measure,  
and who have provoked You to anger, O God most good.  
Alas, among these sinners, I am the first.  
But in your great mercy, O Judge, save me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:  
(Tone 8)**

When the thrones are set up and the books are opened,  
and God will sit in judgment,

what fear shall I feel at that moment!  
When the angels shall tremble at his side and a river of fire rise up,  
what shall we sinners then do?  
When we shall hear the blessed of his Father called to the kingdom of heaven  
and the sinners to eternal punishment,  
who will be able to endure his dreadful condemnation?  
But You, O my Savior, hasten to convert me before the end,  
and, O King of the ages, have mercy on me.

**Now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

***(Tone 3)***

O most honorable Virgin, we are filled with awe  
when we consider that you gave birth to Christ Who is both God and man.  
O Immaculate Lady, without knowing man,  
you gave birth in the flesh to a Son without a human father.  
This Son, from all eternity, was begotten by God the Father without a mother,  
and when He took on our human nature,  
He did not undergo any change.  
Nothing was added to His divine nature, nor was It divided.  
The properties of both His divine and human nature remained intact.  
We therefore entreat you, O Blessed Virgin,  
to save the souls of those who, in true faith,  
acknowledge you as the Mother of God.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Stand aright!

### **HYMN OF LIGHT**

O Joyful Light!  
Light and Holy Glory of the Father immortal,  
The heavenly, holy the Blessed One: O Jesus Christ!  
Now that we have reached the setting of the sun;  
And see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured  
melody to You, O Son of God, the Giver of Life.  
Behold the universe sings Your glory.

**Priest:** Let us be attentive. Peace be with all. Wisdom let us be attentive.

**Prokimen:**

The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty

**Verse:** Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

**Verse:** For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

**Verse:** Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

## **THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Priest:** Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord Almighty, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

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

**Priest:** We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff **[N]**, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch **[N]**, our most reverend Metropolitan **[N]**, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

**Priest:** We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

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

**Priest:** We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

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

**Priest:** For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## **HYMN OF GLORIFICATION**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name for ever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us because we have set our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master, make me understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your laws.

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; do not despise the work of Your hands.  
It is proper to praise You, and hymns belong to You.  
Glory belongs to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

### **LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Priest:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord

**Priest:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend

ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ Our God.

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

**Priest:** For You, O God are good and the lover of us all and we give You glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Bow your heads to the Lord.

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

**Priest:** (silently) O Lord our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads before You, the Judge, both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams.

May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## **APOSTICA**

### ***(Tone 3)***

O Christ, Who darkened the sun by Your passion and enlightened all creation by Your resurrection, accept our evening prayer; for You love mankind.

**Verse:** The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

O Lord, Your life-giving resurrection has enlightened the entire universe and has revived Your creation which lay in corruption. Therefore, we, who have been released from the curse of Adam, cry out to You: Almighty Lord, glory to You!

**Verse:** For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

O God, although In Your divine nature You are unchangeable,  
yet In Your human nature You underwent change by suffering In the flesh.  
All creation was prostrate with fear  
when it saw You hanging on the Cross,  
and it groaned in sorrow as it sang the praises of Your long-suffering.  
But You descended into Hades and arose on the third day,  
granting life and great mercy to the world.

**Verse:** Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

You suffered death, O Christ, to deliver mankind from death.  
And when You arose from the dead on the third day,  
You enlightened the world  
and resurrected all who acknowledge You as God.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:  
(Tone 8)**

Alas! O my darkened soul,  
how long will you persist in sin?  
How long will you lie in laziness?  
Why do you not think of the dreadful hour of death?  
Do you not fear the awesome judgment seat of the Savior?  
How will you defend yourself? How will you be vindicated?  
Your works are there to convict you, and your actions witness against you.  
Moreover, time is growing short, O my soul;  
hasten and cry out in faith:  
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned:  
but I know your love and your mercy.  
O Good Shepherd, in your goodness,  
do not deprive me of a place at your right hand.

**Now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

O Virgin, you have never known wedlock,  
yet you conceived God in the flesh  
in a manner which words can never describe.  
You thus became the Mother of God on high.  
O Immaculate Lady, receive the supplication of your servants  
and grant us the cleansing of our sins.  
Accept now our prayers and beseech God to save all of us.

**HYMN OF SIMEON**

Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord,  
According to Your Word in peace;  
Because my eyes have seen Your salvation

Which You have prepared before the face of all people,  
A light to the revelation of the Gentiles  
And the glory of Your people, Israel.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. *(3 times)*  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our  
transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the  
sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be  
done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Tropar *(Tone 3)***

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,  
for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.  
He trampled death by death; He became the first born of the dead;  
He saved us from the abyss of Hades  
and granted great mercy to the world.

**DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Give the blessing!

**Priest:** Blessed are You, O Christ our God, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen. O God, strengthen the true faith forever and ever.

**Priest:** O most holy Mother of God, save us!

**People:** More honorable than the Cherubim and by far more glorious than the Seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

**Priest:** Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x) Give the blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, who willed to be carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon for our salvation, through the prayers of his most holy Mother, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, and through the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us for He is gracious and loves all of us.

**People:** Amen

**REJOICE, VIRGIN MARY**

Rejoice Virgin Mary, full of grace.  
O 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.

For you have given birth  
To the Saviour of our souls.