

**GREAT VESPERS**  
**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

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

**People:** Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead; trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.  
(3X)

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 2)**

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 2)**

Come, let us adore God the Word,  
Who was born of the Father before all ages,  
and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary;  
for of His own free will He suffered the Cross  
and submitted himself to burial,  
and arose from the dead to save me, a sinful one.

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

Christ our Savior cancelled the decree that was written against us,  
by nailing it to the Cross;  
and He abolished the dominion of Death.  
Let us glorify His Resurrection on the third day.

**I have waited for You as You have commanded;**

**My soul patiently relies on Your promise,  
for it has trusted in the Lord.**

Let us, together with the archangels, sing of Christ's resurrection;  
for He is the Redeemer and Savior of Our Souls.  
He will come again in awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world which He has  
fashioned.

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

Although You died and were buried,  
the angel yet declared You as Master.  
He said to the women: Come and see where the Lord was placed;  
for He is risen as He foretold,  
because He is almighty.  
Therefore, we worship You, the Only Immortal One, and we beseech You to have mercy on us, O  
Giver of Life.

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

Early at dawn, the myrrh-bearing women arose,  
and, carrying spices, they came to the tomb of the Lord;  
and not finding what they expected,  
the pious women pondered the removal of the stone.  
They spoke to one another, saying:  
Where are the seals of the grave?  
Where is the guard which Pilate sent with great care?  
And behold, a radiant angel appeared and proclaimed to them:  
Why do you tearfully seek the Living One who gives life to all mortal flesh?  
Christ our God has risen from the dead.  
He is the Almighty One  
who grants to all enlightenment, eternal life, and great mercy.

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

Why do you sprinkle your myrrh with tears, O women disciples?  
The stone is rolled away, and the tomb is empty;  
behold, Life has triumphed over Death.  
The seals give brilliant witness:  
that the guards of the godless have watched in vain,  
that mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God,  
and that Hades is in mourning.  
Hasten in joy, proclaiming to the apostles,  
that Christ, the conqueror of Death, is the first-born of the dead.  
He shall go before you into Galilee.

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

The myrrh-bearing women, O Christ, rose up early and hastened to your tomb, seeking to anoint your most pure body.

But when the glad tidings were brought to them by the words of the angel, they hastened to the apostles as messengers of joy.

The Leader of our salvation has risen and conquered Death.

He grants the world eternal life and great mercy.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

***Tone 6***

The myrrh-bearing women, O Savior, came to your grave;  
and they saw that it was empty

but did not find your most pure body.

Therefore, they cried out with tears and said:

Who has robbed us of our hope?

Who has taken away a naked and anointed corpse,  
the only consolation to his Mother?

How could they bury the One who trampled down Hades?

But in your own power, O Lord,

arise after three days as You said

and grant great mercy to our souls.

**now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

**(Tone 2)**

At the coming of grace, O Virgin,

the shadow of the Law passed away.

For, as the bush, though burning, was not consumed,

You, though giving birth, still remained a virgin.

In place of the pillar of fire, the Sun of Righteousness  
shone forth.

Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of Our Souls, appeared.

**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 2)**

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,  
has enlightened the whole universe;  
and, through it, You call back to yourself all creation.  
Almighty God, glory to You!

#### **PASCAL STICHERA - Tone 5**

##### **Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered.**

The holy Pasch has today appeared to us,  
The new and sacred Pasch!  
The mystic Pasch; and all-venerable Pasch!  
The Pasch which is Christ-Redeemer!  
The immaculate Pasch!  
The great Pasch!  
The Pasch of the faithful!  
The Pasch that opens the gates of paradise to us!  
The Pasch that sanctifies all the faithful!

##### **As smoke vanishes, let them vanish.**

Come from that scene, O heralding women,  
and say to Sion:

"Receive from us the glad tidings of joy

Of the Resurrection of Christ!"  
Exalt, rejoice  
and be glad , O Jerusalem,  
Seeing Christ the King as a bridegroom  
Come forth from the grave.

**So let sinners perish from the presence of God,  
But let the righteous rejoice.**

The myrrh-bearing women at early dawn  
Came to the grave of the Lifegiver;  
They found an angel  
sitting on a stone,  
And he spoke to them, saying:  
"Why seek the living among the dead?  
Why weep for the incorruptible amid corruption?  
Go, proclaim the news to His disciples!"

**This is the day which the Lord has made; Let rejoice and be glad in it!**

The Pasch of delight, the Pasch of the Lord,  
The all-venerable Pasch has dawned upon us!  
The Pasch when with joy we embrace one another!  
O Pasch, our deliver-ance from sorrow!  
For today Christ shone forth from the grave as from a palace,  
and filled the women with joy, saying:  
"Proclaim the news to the apostles!"

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

O day of Resurrection!  
Let us beam with celebration,  
and embracing one another,  
Let us say: "Brothers and Sisters!"  
And, to those who hate us,  
Let us forgive everything because of the the Resurrection,  
And then let us sing thus:  
Christ is risen from the dead; trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.

**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 2:**

When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,  
You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.  
When You raised the dead from the nether world,  
all the powers of heaven cried out:  
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You!"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
The noble Joseph took down your most pure body from the Cross.  
He wrapped it in a clean shroud,  
and with fragrant spices laid it in burial in a new tomb.  
But You arose in three days, O Lord,  
bestowing great mercy upon the world.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.  
The angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the women bringing ointment:  
Ointments are for the dead.  
but Christ has shown himself not subject to corruption.  
So now cry out: The Lord has risen,  
bestowing great mercy upon the world.  
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

**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:** Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exalt now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the Resurrection of your Son!

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

**People:** Christ is risen from the dead; trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life. Lord, have mercy. (3x) Give the blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life, 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.

Christ is risen from the dead; trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life.  
(3X)

And to us He grants life eternal, let us bow to his third day resurrection.