

## **GREAT VESPERS**

### **Sunday of the Holy Fore-Fathers**

**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 4)*

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 4)*

We never cease to adore Your life-giving Cross, O Christ our God,  
and we glorify Your resurrection on the third day.  
For You, Almighty One, have thereby restored the corrupted nature of all  
and reopened the way to heaven,  
since You alone are gracious and You love mankind.

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

O Savior, You have absolved the penalty of disobedience,  
committed through the tree of Eden,  
by willingly being nailed to the tree of the Cross.  
As Almighty God, You descended Into Hades  
and broke asunder the bonds of death.  
We, therefore, venerate Your resurrection from the dead,  
and joyfully cry out to You:  
Almighty Lord, glory to you!

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

O Lord, You have battered down the gates of Hades,  
and by Your death You have dissolved the realm of Death.  
You have freed mankind from corruption,  
bestowing life, incorruption, and Your great mercy upon the world.

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

*Tone 8* Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ.  
Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior  
who exalted them among all nations.  
He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds  
because He is powerful and mighty.  
From them He brought forth a royal scepter,  
the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary.  
From her, Christ our God came forth  
to give life and eternal salvation for all.

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

O Lord and Master,  
You rescued the three holy youths from the fire.  
You saved Daniel from the mouths of the lions;  
You blessed Abraham, Isaac your servant, and Jacob his son.  
You willed to be like one of us  
by choosing to be born from them  
in order that You might save our Forefathers who had fallen.  
By your Cross and Resurrection You tore apart the bonds of death.  
You raised up all those who for ages had been among the dead  
and who bow to You, O Christ, the eternal King.

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

The three holy youths were refreshed by the Holy Spirit  
when they walked in the fire as though in a cool place.  
In them the Trinity and the Incarnation of Christ  
were prefigured in a mystical manner.  
By their wisdom and faith  
they overcame the power of fire.  
As for the just Daniel, he stopped the mouths of lions.  
Through their intercession, we beseech You:

O Savior and Lover of Mankind,  
protect us from eternal fire  
and make us worthy of your heavenly kingdom.

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

When the three holy youths stood in the flaming furnace  
as if covered with dew,  
they mystically prefigured your coming from the Virgin,  
giving light to us without being consumed.  
And Daniel, the just and wondrous prophet,  
clearly saw in a vision your second divine coming.  
He said: I saw thrones set up and the Judge seated  
and the river of fire flowing in his presence.  
Through their intercession  
deliver us from this fire, O Lord.

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

*Tone 6* O believers, let us give praise today to all the Fathers who lived before the Law:  
Abraham who was beloved by God,  
Isaac who was born according to the promise,  
Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs,  
the very meek David and the favored prophet Daniel.  
Let us also glorify with them the three youths  
who changed the fiery furnace into a place of refreshing dew.  
Let us beg forgiveness of our sins from Christ our God  
who is glorified in his saints.

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

*Tone 4*

O Mother of God, David the Prophet and Forefather of Christ, foretold in song  
the great things that would happen to you.  
He revealed that you would be a queen,  
standing at the right hand of God;  
and that you would be the Mother of Life and Intercessor for the world.  
He prophesied that God, in His good will toward all,  
would become incarnate of you without a human father.  
Thus He would restore His image within us,  
which had become disfigured by our passions.  
He would seek out the lost sheep that was trapped in the hills;  
He would lift it upon His shoulder and carry it to His Father  
Who would place It In the midst of His heavenly hosts.  
In like manner, Christ will save the world because of His great and abundant mercy.

**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 4)***

In being lifted upon the Cross, O Lord,  
You abolished the curse which we had inherited from our ancestors.  
By going down into Hades,  
You freed from eternal captivity those imprisoned there,  
and granted incorruption to the human race.  
We, therefore, praise Your life-giving and redeeming resurrection.

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

By hanging on the Cross, O Almighty One,  
You shook the whole creation to its foundations.  
When You yourself were laid in the grave,

You raised to life those who had been lying in the graves,  
and You granted life and incorruption to mankind.  
We, therefore, praise and glorify Your resurrection on the third day.

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

O Christ, the lawless people showed their ingratitude to You, their Benefactor,  
by delivering You to Pilate who condemned You to be crucified.  
But You willingly suffered death and burial;  
and, as God, You rose by Your own power on the third day,  
granting us everlasting life and great mercy.

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

The women, shedding bitter tears, came to see You in Your tomb;  
and not finding Your body, they lamented, saying:  
O Savior and King of All, how were You stolen?  
What place holds Your life-bearing body?  
An angel answered them, saying:  
Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,  
filling our hearts with joy;  
for He alone is most compassionate.

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

*Tone 3* Come, O lovers of the feast,  
let us sing a hymn of praise to the assembly of the Forefathers:  
Adam, the father of the human race,  
Enoch, Noah, Melchisedek, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.  
Let us also honor those who came after the Law:  
Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, and David;  
together with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel,  
Daniel, and the twelve minor Prophets;  
likewise Elijah, Elisha, and all the others;  
also Zechariah and the Baptist,  
and all those who preached Christ, the Life and the Resurrection of our race.

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

*Tone 3* O Virgin Mother, you conceived the Son of God without seed  
by the will of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit.  
He was begotten by the Father, without a mother, from all eternity.  
Yet for our sake, He was born of you in the flesh without a human father,  
and you nursed Him as an infant with your milk.  
Therefore, never cease to entreat Him to deliver our souls from affliction.

## **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**

When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the glorious news of the resurrection  
and cast off the ancestral condemnation,  
they proudly told the apostles:  
"Death has been plundered! Christ our God is risen  
granting to the world great mercy."

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

## ***Tone 2***

O Christ, You have justified the forefathers by faith,  
thus forming through them the Church of the gentiles.  
These saints are glorified because the Virgin who bore You descends from them.  
O Christ God, through their prayers have mercy on us.

**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, 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