

**GREAT VESPERS**  
**Sunday before Epiphany**

**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 5**

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 5***

With Your precious Cross, O Christ,  
You have put the Devil to shame.  
With Your resurrection You have deadened the sting of sin,  
and have saved us from the gates of Death.  
We, therefore, glorify You, O only-begotten Son of God.

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

O Christ, Who granted resurrection to mankind,  
You were led like a lamb to the slaughter.  
Then the princes of Hades were struck with terror  
as they saw the gates of their tearful domain being lifted up;  
for Christ, the King of Glory, entered therein  
and exclaimed to those in chains: Go forth from here!  
and to those in darkness: Go forth into the light!

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

What a great wonder!  
The Creator of invisible beings suffered in the flesh for mankind,  
and rose from the dead as immortal.  
Come, therefore, all you nations and adore Him;  
for through His compassion we have been freed from the snares of the Devil,  
and we have learned to praise the one God in three persons.

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

We offer to You our evening worship,  
O Light Whom the darkness of night can never extinguish.  
For in these latter days Your radiance has appeared to the world,  
shining in Your flesh as light reflected from a mirror.  
Your brilliance has descended even to the depths of Hades and dissolved its gloom.  
O Lord, Giver of Light, glory to you;  
for You have shown the radiance of Your resurrection to all the nations.

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

**Tone 4**

Let us piously sing the prefestive hymns  
of the honorable baptism of our God.  
Behold, He desires to come in the flesh to his own Forerunner,  
and to ask for the baptism of salvation  
for the re-creation of those who are enlightened through the faith  
and who are partakers of the Spirit.

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

Christ is revealed and God appears, as it is written;  
He comes to his servant to be baptized.  
O River Jordan, O land and sea, O mountains and hills,  
be filled with happiness;  
O hearts of the faithful,  
joyfully celebrate and receive the great Light.

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

O all-powerful Lord,  
how will the streams of the river receive You?  
As it is written, You are the river and the stream of peace;  
how will You enter the stream without a garment?  
For You are the One who covers the heavens with clouds;  
You are the One who stripped away all evil of the enemy  
and who clothed the human race with immortality.

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

**Tone 6**

Christ the Truth is coming to the Jordan  
to be baptized by John,  
and the Baptizer says to Him:  
I should be baptized by You, but You are coming to me.  
I do not dare to put straw to the fire.  
O Master, sanctify me by your divine Theophany.

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

**Tone 5**

The passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea  
was already a foreshadowing of the virgin-birth.  
On that occasion, Moses parted the waters;  
at the Incarnation, Gabriel announced the miracle of God's union with Mary.  
In ancient times, the Israelites passed through the depths of the sea  
without being drenched by the waters;  
now the Virgin has given birth to Christ without seed.  
After the Israelites passed through the sea, it remained impassible;  
after the birth of Emmanuel, the Immaculate Virgin remains forever incorrupt.  
O God, Who exists from all eternity, and yet appeared as man,  
have mercy on us.

**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.

#### APOSTICHA

##### Tone 5

O Christ, our Saviour,  
we lift up our voices in song to glorify You.  
For, In Your love for mankind,  
You became incarnate without leaving heaven;  
You accepted the Cross and death;  
You cast down the gates of Hades;  
and on the third day You arose from the dead  
for the salvation of our souls.

**The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.**  
O Giver of Life,  
streams of forgiveness, life, and salvation  
poured forth from Your pierced side upon us all.  
By accepting physical death, You granted us immortality;

by lying in the tomb, You freed us from Hades,  
and as God, by rising from the dead,  
You raised us with yourself in glory.  
Therefore, we cry out to You:  
O Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

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

O Lover of Mankind,  
Your crucifixion and descent into Hades are most wondrous.  
For, as God, You thereby conquered the power of Hades  
and raised up in glory, with yourself, those who were long imprisoned there.  
You reopened Paradise and enabled them to enter.  
Grant forgiveness of sins to us  
who glorify Your resurrection on the third day,  
for You alone are all-merciful.

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

O Lover of Mankind,  
You accepted suffering in the flesh  
and rose from the dead on the third day.  
Therefore, heal the passions of our flesh,  
raise us from our dreadful iniquities, and save us.

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

**Tone 3**

O come all you faithful ones.  
Leaving the regions of Judea, we shall cross the wilderness of the Jordan;  
and today we shall see Him who revealed himself in the flesh for our sake.  
In the streams of the Jordan,  
He is asking the Forerunner for baptism.  
John refuses and cries out in fear:  
I do not dare to touch the divine Fire with my hand of clay.  
The Jordan and the sea fled, O Savior, and then returned.  
And I, how shall I place a hand on your head which even the Seraphim fear?  
The Jordan fled when Elisha received the mantle of Elijah;  
how will it not go into the Abyss  
and into the depths when it sees You unclothed in the stream?  
How will the Jordan not burn me when I touch the fire?  
The Jordan then cries out to John:  
Why do you hesitate to baptize my Lord?  
Why do you delay the purification of so many people?  
He has already sanctified all creation.  
Let me also be sanctified together with the nature of the waters.  
For this reason, He has come into the world.

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

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 5**

Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin for our salvation.  
For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh,  
to suffer death and to raise the dead  
by His glorious resurrection

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

**Tone 4**

Make ready, O Zabulon,  
and prepare yourself, O Nephtali;  
O River Jordan, stop and receive with joy  
the Master coming to be baptized.  
O Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve,  
and do not hide yourselves as before in Paradise.  
For, having seen you unclothed,  
Christ has appeared to clothe you with the first robe;  
He has appeared to renew all creation.

**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