

GREAT VESPERS

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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 1)

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!

Tone 1

Let your ears be attentive, to the voice of my prayer.
Accept our evening prayer, O holy Lord,
and grant us forgiveness of sins,
for You alone manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

O you people, walk around Zion and encompass her.
And there give glory to Him Who Is risen from the dead.
For He is our God Who delivers us from our sins.

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

Come you people, praise and worship Christ.
Glorify His Resurrection from the dead;
for He is our God Who has delivered the world
from the deceit of the enemy.

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

Rejoice, O you heavens;
sound the trumpets, you foundations of the earth;
cry out with joy, O you mountains.
For behold, Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross;
the Giver of Life has put Death to death;
and the Lover of Mankind has raised up Adam.

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

Let us praise the Lord
Who for our sake was willingly crucified in the flesh.
He suffered, was buried, and rose from the dead.
Therefore, let us sing to Him:
O Christ, keep Your Church in the true faith
and bring peace to our lives;
for You are gracious and You love mankind.

**Praise the Lord, all the Nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.
(Tone 1)**

I have sown sin in a land of innocence and life
and have harvested the ears of thoughtlessness.
I have gathered my actions into bundles of sheaves,
but I have not placed them on the threshing floor of repentance.
And now I pray to You, O my God,
for You are the pre-eternal tiller of our fields:
With the breath of your loving-kindness,

winnow the grain of my actions,
feed my soul with your grace and forgiveness,
gather me into your heavenly granaries and save me.

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

O faithful, let us discover the power of the divine mystery.
The Prodigal came back from his sin and returned to his father's house;
in his loving kindness his father came out to meet him and kissed him.
He restored him to the glory of his house
and prepared a mystical banquet on high.
He killed the fatted calf so that we may share in his joy:
the joy of the Father who offers with love,
and the joy of the Lamb who gives himself for us;
for He is Christ, the Savior of our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
(Tone 2)

From what blessings have I been deprived in my wretchedness,
from what kingdom have I been exiled!
I squandered the treasure that I received from You,
and I have wandered far from your law.
Alas, O my poor soul, you shall be delivered to the eternal fire;
but before the end cry out to Christ our God:
Receive me, O Lord, as the Prodigal Son,
and have mercy on me.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.
(Tone 1)

Let us praise the Virgin Mary
who, although born of our humanity, gave birth to the Lord of All.
The angels extol her in song;
for she is the glory of the whole world,
the gateway to heaven, and the adornment of the faithful.
As the Mother of God, she is heaven itself and the very temple of God.
She broke down the wail of enmity between mankind and God
thereby bringing us peace and opening the gates of the Kingdom.
Let us, therefore, cling to her as the anchor of our faith;
and our Lord, Who was born of her, will be our protector.
Take courage then, O people of God,
for the Almighty himself will defeat your enemies.

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 1

O Christ, by Your Passion we have been freed from suffering;
and by Your Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption.
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Let all creation rejoice, let the heavens be glad,
let the nations clap their hands with joy.
For Christ our Savior, In His love for mankind,
has nailed our sins to the Cross;
He has put Death to death,
and by raising our fallen forefather, Adam,
He has given life to all mankind.

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

O God, You are above all understanding;
You are King and Lord of heaven and earth.
Yet of Your own free will,
You allowed yourself to be crucified because of Your love for mankind.
When You descended below,
Hades was filled with bitterness as You confronted it;
but the souls of the just received You with great joy.
Adam arose when he saw You, his Creator, down in the depths.
What a wonder this Is!
You are the life of all and have tasted death
in order to dispel the darkness of the world by Your light.
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

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

The myrrh-bearing women were filled with grief
as they hastened with spices to Your tomb;
but they did not find Your most pure body.
Instead, they found an angel
who proclaimed Your unique and glorious resurrection,
and commanded them to announce to Your apostles:
The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

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

(Tone 6) I have wasted the treasure that my Father gave to me;
I have lived among senseless animals;
I have longed to eat the food of swine,
and because no one offered it to me I remained hungry.
But now I return to my Father who is so good,
and with tears I cry out:

Treat me as one of your servants,
for I no longer deserve your love;
and in your mercy, save me.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer,
came forth from your womb, O most pure Virgin.
He clothed himself in our human flesh
to set us free from the original curse of Adam.
Therefore, O Mary, we praise you, without ceasing,
as the true Virgin Mother of God,
and we sing with the angels:
Rejoice, O Lady, advocate, protector, and salvation of our souls.

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 1

Though the stone was sealed by the Jews
and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,
You arose, O Savior, on the third day,
and gave life to the world.

And so the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of life:

Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your kingdom!

Glory to Your saving plan,

O only Lover of Mankind.

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