

## **GREAT VESPERS**

### **1st Sunday of Great Lent**

**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 6)*

O Lord, whom the universe cannot contain,  
before the dawn of time You were born of the immaterial and incorporeal Father;  
through the Holy Spirit, the prophets have announced your coming as an infant  
who took flesh of the most pure Virgin  
so that You might converse with mortals and be seen by them.  
Count us worthy of your light, O compassionate Lord,  
for we praise your ineffable and holy Resurrection.

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

The holy prophets have merited eternal life,  
for they announced You by their word  
and served You by their works.  
They did not wish to serve creation instead of You, the Creator, O God;  
they despised the world to announce You.  
They were conformed to your Passion  
which they have seen in a prophetic vision.  
By their prayers, grant that we may complete the course of this Fast in all purity,  
O Lord most merciful.

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

By nature You are beyond measure, O Lord;  
yet in these last times You deigned to accept the limitations of the flesh.  
By your incarnation You assumed all aspects of our human nature.  
We now inscribe the image of your likeness  
so that we might worthily venerate it,  
and that we might be raised up to your love  
from which we draw your great mercy,  
according to the tradition of your holy Apostles.

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

It is an adornment of great price  
that the Church of Christ has received in the holy icons  
of the Savior, the Mother of God and all the saints.  
Raising them on high, she shines with splendor and brightness  
and puts down all heresies.  
In joy she glorifies God, who by his love for us,

has deigned to freely suffer his Passion.

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

The grace of truth has shown forth;  
that which was formerly prefigured obscurely  
is now openly fulfilled.  
Behold, the Church is clothed as with a heavenly garment  
by the icon of the body of Christ,  
which was prefigured by the Ark of the Covenant.  
She preserves the true faith,  
so that we might keep without blemish  
the image of the One whom we worship.  
May those who do not believe this be covered with shame!  
For we glory in the image of the incarnate Word,  
whom we venerate but do not worship as an idol.  
O faithful, let us hold it in reverence and sing:  
Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance.

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

*(Tone 3)*

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.

#### **APOSTICHA**

*(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 all of us.  
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 2)**

We who have turned away from the darkness of disbelief  
and have been enlightened by the light of knowledge,  
now sing our psalms of acclamation.  
May our praise and thanksgiving rise up to God!  
And let us bow with respect before the holy icons  
of Christ, the Mother of God and of all the saints.  
Let us reject the godlessness of those who do not follow the true faith.  
For Saint Basil has said:  
The veneration of the icon passes over to the one who is represented.  
Through the intercession of your most pure Mother and all the saints,  
we implore You, O Christ,  
to grant us your great mercy.

**Now and ever and forever. Amen.**

We now behold a new wonder,  
greater than the wonders of old.  
For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man?  
Who has known a mother to hold within her arms the Source of all Creation?  
It was God's own will to be born in this manner;  
and you, O most pure Virgin, carried Him as an infant in your arms.  
Because of this, you can approach God with the boldness of a mother.  
Therefore, we venerate you, and ask you to always beseech Him  
to have mercy on us and save 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 4)*

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)**

We bow before your sacred image, O gracious Lord,  
and beg forgiveness for our offenses, O Christ our God;  
for You, of your own free will, deigned to ascend the Cross in your human nature  
to deliver from the bondage of the Enemy those whom You created.  
Therefore, we gratefully cry out to You:  
Through your coming to save the world, O Savior,  
You have filled all with joy.

**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