

GREAT VESPERS - 3rd Sunday of Lent - Holy Cross Sunday

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 6)

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 6)

O Christ, You won the victory over Hades,
You ascended the Cross so that You might raise up with yourself
all those who dwelt in the darkness of death.
Almighty Savior, You are free from death
and bestow life by Your divine light.
We, therefore, beseech You to have mercy on us.

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

Today Christ has conquered Death.
He has risen from the grave as He had foretold,
bestowing great joy upon the world.
Therefore, let us all lift up our voices and sing:
O Fount of Life, O Light Whom no one can approach,
Almighty Savior, have mercy on us.

**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, where can we sinners flee from You,
for You are present in all creation?
You are present in heaven, for it is Your dwelling-place.
Your power prevails in Hades where You conquered Death.
O Master, Your sustaining hand touches even the depths of the sea.
Where, then, can we take refuge except In You?
We, therefore, prostrate ourselves before You and pray:
O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

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

(Tone 5)

Shine brightly, O life-giving Cross of the Lord;
the rays of your grace enlighten the hearts
of those who venerate and piously embrace you.
Through you, the tears of our eyes have been dried up,
we have been delivered from the snares of Hades,

and we have a share in eternal joy.
Show us the splendor of your beauty;
grant your gifts and blessings to the faithful who pray with faith
for your protection and great mercy.

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

Rejoice, O life-giving Cross of the Lord,
Paradise of the Church and new Tree of life,
who bring us the joy of unending glory.
Through you, the hosts of demons are driven back;
in you, the angels in heaven rejoice;
and for you, the assemblies of believers are now keeping the feast.
O invincible weapon and impenetrable stronghold,
pride of bishops and scepter of kings,
grant that we may now contemplate the Passion of Christ
and his holy Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O life-giving Cross of the Lord,
invincible emblem of faith,
gate of Paradise, rampart of the Church and consolation of believers.
Through you, the power of death was abolished,
the ancient curse disappeared,
and we are lifted up from earth to heaven.
O invincible weapon that dispels demons,
harbor of salvation and glory of martyrs,
precious adornment of the just and holy ones,
you bring to the world great mercy.

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

Rejoice, O first-created couple,
whom the jealous Enemy made fall from on high
by the bitter pleasure of eating from the forbidden Tree.
Behold, the new Tree of life draws near!
Hasten to embrace it in joy
and let your cry of faith rise up:
O precious Cross, you are our help and protection;
your fruit brings us immortality,

the promise of Paradise and great mercy.

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

(Tone 3)

O Christ our God, You willingly suffered crucifixion,
for the resurrection of all humanity.

On the Cross, You signed the royal charter of our liberation,
with the purple of your blood.

Do not forsake us when we are in danger of being separated from You.

In your goodness, have mercy on your people in distress.

Rise up against our enemies, O almighty Lord.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

(Tone 6)

Who would not bless you, most holy Virgin?

Who would not praise the most pure manner in which you gave birth?

For the only-begotten Son, Who eternally proceeds from the Father, came forth from
you.

He took flesh from you in a manner that is beyond understanding.

He, Who by nature is God, took on our nature for our sake.

Yet He did not become divided into two persons;

rather, He remained one person with two distinct and unconfused natures.

O most pure Lady, we implore you:

Beseech your Son and God to have mercy on our souls.

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 6)

O Christ our Savior,
the angels in heaven sing the praises of Your resurrection;
make us, on earth, also worthy
to extol and glorify You with a pure heart.

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

Almighty God, You destroyed the brazen gates and bars of Hades,
and raised up fallen mankind.

Therefore, with one accord, we cry out:

O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

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

Christ willed to renew us from our corruption of old
by being nailed to a cross and placed in a tomb.

When the women came to anoint His body they tearfully cried out:

O, what sorrow afflicts us!

O Savior of All, how could You consent to occupy a grave?

If You truly willed this, then why did You allow Your body to be stolen?

How were You removed?

What place now conceals Your life-bearing body?

O Lord, appear to us as You promised

and put an end to our tears.

As they were lamenting, an angel appeared and cried out to them:

Do not weep, but tell the apostles that the Lord is risen,

granting sanctification and great mercy to the world.

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

O Christ, You were crucified of Your own free will,
and by Your burial You imprisoned Death.

As God, You rose in glory on the third day,
granting life and great mercy to the world.

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

(Tone 4)

O Lord, You assisted David in battle
to overcome the godless ones;

with the weapon of your Cross,

help us to drive back our enemies.

Show us your love as You did before,

so that the people might know in truth that You are our God,

and that our victory comes from You.

Your Mother intercedes unceasingly

that we may be granted your great mercy.

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 6)

Angelic powers were upon Your tomb
and the guards became like dead men;
Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body.
You captured Hades without being overcome by it.
You met the Virgin and granted life.
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to You.

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

(Tone 1)

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance;
grant victory to your Church over her enemies
and protect your people by your Cross.

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