



GREAT VESPERS

Resurrection (Tone 1) and the Entrance into the
Temple of our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God
and Ever-Virgin Mary

~ Please Stand

Priest: Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Then, in two choirs:

✙ Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

✙ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✙ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✙ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✙ 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

+ 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, the power, and the glory are Yours, **+ Father,**
Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. *Twelve times.*

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

+ Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God.

+ Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God.

+ Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord Jesus Christ, * our King and God.

PSALM 103

Chanted in two choirs, or recited on the reader on a single note

(1) Bless the Lord, O my soul! * You are very great O Lord, my God!

(2) Clothed in pomp and brilliance; * arrayed with light as with a cloak.

- (1) Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth, * covering Your lofty halls with water.
- (2) You make the clouds Your conveyance. * You surge on the wings of the wind.
- (1) You make spirits Your messengers, * and flaming fires Your attendants.
- (2) You settle the earth on its firm foundation; * it shall stand unmoved from age to age.
- (1) The abyss covers it like a garment; * waters stand over the mountains.
- (2) At Your rebuke they will take flight; * at the peal of Your thunder they will fear.
- (1) They hurdle the hills and run down the dales, * to the place You have chosen for them.
- (2) You have set up a boundary not to be passed; * they shall never return to cover the earth.
- (1) Down in the gullies You make springs to rise; * water shall go down between the mountains.
- (2) They shall give drink to the beasts of the field; * wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.
- (1) The birds of the sky will abide by them; * from among the rocks they will raise their song.
- (2) From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains; * the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.
- (1) You make green pastures for the cattle * and food-plants for the service of all,
- (2) So that bread may be brought forth from the earth, * and wine that gladdens the heart of man.

- (1) So that oil may put a gleam upon his face; * and that bread may strengthen the heart of all.
- (2) The trees of the plain will be satisfied, * the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.
- (1) The sparrows will build their nests in them; * and the herons will call them their home.
- (2) To the deer belong high mountains, * to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.
- (1) You have made the moon to mark the seasons; * the sun knows the time of its setting.
- (2) You establish darkness, and it is night * wherein the forest creatures prowl around.
- (1) Young lions roar for their prey, * and call out to God for their meat.
- (2) As the sun rises, they will come together, * and lay themselves down in their dens.
- (1) Man will go out to his labour* and work until eventide.
- (2) How great are Your works, O Lord, * in wisdom You have wrought them all.
- (1) The earth is filled with Your creatures; even the wide and open sea itself, * within it there are countless creeping things, living beings small and large.
- (2) Upon it there are ships a-sailing, * and that great beast You made to have fun.
- (1) All of them look up to You, * to give them their food in due time.
- (2) You provide and they gather up; * You open Your hand and they are full.
- (1) You hide Your face and they cringe; * You suspend their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

(2) You send forth Your breath and they live; * You renew the face of the earth.

(1) May the Lord's glory endure forever, * may the Lord rejoice in His works.

(2) He looks upon the earth and makes it quake; * He touches the mountains and they smoke.

(1) I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; * I will praise my God as long as I last.

(2) Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him, * and I will rejoice in the Lord.

(1) May sinners vanish from the earth, * and may the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, * O my soul!

(2) The sun knows the time of its setting. * You establish darkness, and it is night.

(1) 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. *Three times.*

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: 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.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For favourable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For the seafarers and travellers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: 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.

All: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For all glory, honour, and worship befit You, **+** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

BLESSED IS THE MAN FIRST STASIS OF THE FIRST KATHISMA

Verses from Psalms 1-3

Blessed is the man * who has not walked in the council of the wicked.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the just, * but the way of the wicked shall be lost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear, * exult in Him with trembling. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are those who trust in Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord, save me, my God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is of the Lord! * Upon Your people Your blessing! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

✚ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

✚ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God.

✚ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God.

✚ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God.

SMALL LITANY

Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: 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.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the might, and Yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED TO YOU”

Psalms 140, 141, 129, 116

Right choir: O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me; * Hear me, O Lord!
* O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me; * receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon You. * Hear me, O Lord!

Left choir: Let my prayer rise like incense before You; * and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. * Hear me, O Lord!

Then, in two choirs, or recited on the reader on a single note:

- (1) Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth, * and a portal around my lips.
- (2) Incline my heart away from evil dealings, * from finding excuses for sinful deeds.
- (1) In company with those who work iniquity, * let me not partake of what they choose.
- (2) May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me; * may the oil of the wicked never touch my head.
- (1) Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare. * Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.
- (2) 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.

- (1) To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up. * In You have I hoped;
let not my soul be lost.
- (2) Keep me from the snare that was set for me, * and from the
stumbling-blocks of the wicked.
- (1) The wicked shall fall into their own nets, * while I remain alone
until I can escape.

Psalm 141

- (2) With my voice I cried to the Lord; * with all my voice I implored
the Lord.
- (1) Before Him I pour out my supplications; * before Him I declare my
distress.
- (2) When my breath was escaping me, * then you knew my paths;
- (1) On the road upon which I was walking, * they set up snares for me.
- (2) I looked to my right and observed * there was no one friendly to
me;
- (1) Even flight was denied me; * there was no one to take care of my
life.
- (2) I cried out to You, O Lord, and said: * You are my hope, my share
in the land of the living.
- (1) Listen to my supplication, * for I am laid very low.
- (2) Deliver me from my oppressors, * for they have overwhelmed me.

(If 10 stichera are sung): 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.**

(If 8 stichera are sung): 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 1) If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?* **But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.**

Accept our evening prayer, O holy Lord,* and grant us forgiveness of sins,* for You alone manifested the resurrection* to the world.

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

O you people, walk around Sion 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.

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

O faithful, let us leap for joy today,* singing psalms and hymns of praise* in honour of Mary, his mother,* the holy Tabernacle and Ark that contained the Word* whom nothing can contain.* She is offered to God as a child in a marvellous way,* and Zechariah the high priest receives her with great joy,* for she is the dwelling place of the Most High.

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

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God,* Mary, the pure and blessed One,* is being brought into the temple according to the Law* to live in its holy precincts.* Joachim and Anne and all the virgins* rejoice with her in spirit.* They sing hymns of praise to the Lord* and honour his Mother.

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

O Virgin Mother of God,* you are the One foretold by the prophets.* You are the glory of the apostles* and the pride of martyrs* and the

cause of renewal for the entire human race.* Through you we have been reconciled with God.* Therefore, we honour your entrance into the temple of the Lord.* Together with the angels, all of us who are saved by your prayers sing to you:* Rejoice, O most holy One.

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

The most praiseworthy Anne cries out in great joy:* O Zechariah, receive the One whom the prophets of God* foretold through the Spirit.* Escort her into the holy temple,* since she is to be the sublime Temple,* the palace, throne, and wondrous abode of our God.

✙ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. * **Now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

Today let the heavens above greatly rejoice* and let the clouds pour down gladness* at the mighty and marvellous acts of our God.* For behold, the gate that looks towards the East,* born from a fruitless and barren womb according to the promise,* and consecrated to God as his dwelling,* is now being brought into the temple* as a spotless offering.* Let David greatly rejoice and play on his harp, saying:* Virgins shall be brought to the king after her,* her companions shall be brought into the ark of the Lord* to be nourished with the life of the Incorruptible One* who was begotten from eternity* for the salvation of our souls.

THE ENTRANCE

This dialogue takes place in a spoken voice.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: O gracious King, You love mankind and bless all things. With contrite heart and humble spirit we pray to You, O Christ our true God: Bless our comings and our goings. For Your coming and

ascension and dwelling among us are blessed, always, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen. Master, bless the holy entrance.

Priest (blessing towards the east): Blessed is the entrance of Your saints, always now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen.

Then, aloud, the Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright!

TRANQUIL LIGHT

Tranquil Light, of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: as we come upon the sunset, as we see the evening light, we sing to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At all times You are worthy of being hymned by joyful voices; O Son of God, You are the giver of life. For this the whole world glorifies You.

(Trans. Conrad Dachuk)

PROKEIMENON

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

The deacon intones the Prokeimenon and its verse, and in conclusion repeats the first half of the Prokeimenon.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6: **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.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

On certain Sundays and feasts, three readings from the Old Testament are included here:

(1) Exodus 40:1-5,9-10,16,34-35; (2) I Kings 7:51-8:1, 3-7, 9-11; (3) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

INSISTENT LITANY

Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

Deacon: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *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.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

Deacon: We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

Additional petitions may be added here.

Deacon: 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.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

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.

All: **Amen.**

DEIGN, O LORD

Chanted by a single reader, or sung in tone 7

Deign, O Lord, to keep us this evening * without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, * and praised and glorified is Your name forever. 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.

EVENING LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: That this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

All: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

All: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask the Lord.

All: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

All: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defence at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: 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.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You, O God, are gracious and You love mankind, and we glorify You, ✚ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Peace ✚ be with all!

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: 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

to 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.

All: **Amen.**

APOSTICHA

Of the Resurrection or the feast. The verses for Saturday vespers are given below.

(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 Saviour, 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 with 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, * Now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

O assembly of the faithful,* let us celebrate this day as a spiritual feast.* With great love, let us honour the maiden of God,* the Virgin and Theotokos,* as she is presented into the temple of the Lord;* for she has been chosen from among all generations* to be the dwelling place of Christ our God* who is the King of all.* O virgins, carry candles and lead the way* for the entrance of the ever-Virgin.* Follow after her who is the Mother of God* and mediatrix for the joy of the world.* Therefore, let us all cry out together with the angels:* Rejoice, for you are full of grace,* and you continually pray for our souls.

CANTICLE OF SIMEON

Now, * O Master, You have kept Your promise; * let Your servant go in peace. * With my own eyes, I have seen the salvation * which

You have prepared * in the sight of every people: * a Light to reveal
You to the gentiles * and the glory of Your people, Israel!

TRISAGION PRAYERS

Chanted by a single reader

✚ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✚ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✚ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✚ 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

✚ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now
and forever 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, the power, and the glory are Yours, ✚ Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

TROPARIA

Of the Resurrection or the feast

Troparion, Tone 1: Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans,* and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,* You arose, O Saviour, 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.

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

(Tone 4) Today is the prelude of the good pleasure of God,* and the proclamation of salvation for the human race.* In the Temple of God the Virgin is clearly revealed,* and beforehand announces Christ to all.* To her, then, let us cry aloud with a mighty voice:* Rejoice, fulfilment of the Creator's plan.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

All: **Give the blessing!**

Priest: Blessed is the One-Who-Is, blessed is Christ our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen. O God, strengthen the orthodox faith for ever and ever!**

Priest: O most holy Mother of God, save us.

All: **More honourable 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.

All: **Glory be to the + Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
* now and for ever and ever. Amen. * Lord, have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord, have mercy. * Give the blessing.**

Priest: Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, patroness of this church; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; of Saint, *N.* (*whose day it is*), and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: **Amen.**