

VESPERS

Welcome to Vespers. The tone of this service is contemplative, a great way to end a hectic day. If this is your first time at Vespers, feel free to put this down and simply listen and watch what is going on, or follow along in this simplified companion.

If you find that you are lost, remember that there are a lot of parts said that are not included here. This companion is intended to give you everything you need to fully participate and nothing you won't need. If only one person is singing then that part is probably not written out here. Simply try to listen to what is said and wait until everyone else begins to sing together again and you will find your place. Feel free to ask anyone for assistance if you need it. We begin by singing the. . .

Trisagion Prayers

Priest: Blessed is our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (Thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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 Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Bless the Lord - Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who coverest thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent,

who hast laid the beams of thy chambers on the waters, who makest the clouds thy chariot, who ridest on the wings of the wind, who makest angels spirits, and thy ministers a fiery flame.

Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which thou didst appoint for them.

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.0 Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,

they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From thy lofty abode thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, fodder for the animals that serve man.

That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan which thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to thee, to give them their food in due season.

When thou givest to them, they gather it up; when thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good things. When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed; when thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works.

Who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to thee, O God.

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Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to thee, O God.

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord. etc. . .

People: Lord have Mercy.

At the end we conclude:

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend our selves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Lord, I Call Upon Thee - Psalm 140

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me, hear me, O Lord. Lord, I call upon Thee hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer. When I call upon Thee. Hear, me O Lord.

Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me O Lord.

You are not lost. Simply listen to the readers sing the hymns that are not printed here and wait until they finish. When everyone begins singing again, continue below with. . .

O Gladsome Light

O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory of the Immortal Father, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise. O Son of God and Giver of Life, therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

The Evening Prokeimenon

The Prokeimenon is different each day of the week. Listen for the priest who will call out the verses first.

- Sunday:** Behold now, bless the Lord / all you servants of the Lord.
Monday: The Lord hears me / when I call to Him.
Tuesday: Thy mercy, O Lord / shall follow me all the days of my life.
Wednesday: Save me O God by thy Name / and judge me by thy Strength.
Thursday: My help comes from the Lord / who made heaven and earth.
Friday: Thou, O God, art my helper / and thy mercy shall go before me.
Saturday: The Lord is King / He is robed in majesty.

Vouchsafe, O Lord

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, And praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments.

Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Thy mercy endureth forever, O Lord. O, despise the work of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory,

To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen

The Evening Litany

Priest: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord. etc. . .

People: Lord have Mercy. (for the first two petitions)

On the third petition, the response changes until the end.

Priest: That the evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord. etc. . .

People: Grant this O Lord.

At the end we conclude:

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend our selves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Listen to Father's prayer and the following verses and then we continue, singing the. . .

Prayer of St Symeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to enlighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

People:

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (Thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (Thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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 Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Troparion of the Resurrection

We sing one of the following Resurrection hymns. Listen for the first line and find it below.

First Tone.

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Second Tone.

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Third Tone.

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

Forth Tone.

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ our God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Fifth Tone.

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Sixth Tone.

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

Seventh Tone.

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the myrrh bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

Eight Tone.

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom.

People: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

People: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. Pure Theotokos we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to thee.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His all-pure and all-blameless Mother, of our Fathers among the saints, Herman of Alaska the Wonderworker, Innocent Veniaminov, Apostle to America; the holy New-martyrs Peter the Aleut and the hieromonk Juvenal; and of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of St Thomas the Apostle, Enlightener of India, the patron and the protector of this holy house; and of (Name(s) of Saint(s) of the Day) whose memory we celebrate, and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

People: Amen. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Father, bless.

Priest: Glory to God!

People: Glory forever!

Following the lesson, you may come up to receive a blessing if you wish. Thank you for joining us for Vespers.



