

Vespers

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all 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, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out 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, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, have mercy. *12 times.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O come let us worship God our King.

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

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

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to

quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. **Thrice.**

Lord, have mercy. *12 times.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is of the Lord, and thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. **Thrice.**

Lord, have mercy. **Thrice.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me. * Harken unto me, O Lord. * Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; * attend to the voice of my supplication, * when I cry unto Thee. * Harken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth * as incense before Thee, * the lifting up of my hands * as an evening sacrifice. * Harken unto me, O Lord.

Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips. Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen. The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head. For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been. They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades. For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away. Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity. The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by. With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication. I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare. When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths. In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare. I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me. Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living. Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low. Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Verse: Tone 2: Bring my soul out of prison * that I may confess Thy name.

Come let us worship God the Word, * begotten of the Father before all ages, * incarnate of the Virgin Mary; * for having endured the Cross, he was handed over for burial, * as he himself had wished, * and having risen from the dead he saved me, * the whole man, * who hath gone astray.

Verse: The righteous shall wait patiently for me * until Thou shalt reward me.

Christ our Saviour by nailing the record against us to the Cross * hath blotted it out, * and destroyed the might of death. * We worship his Arising on the third day.

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

With the Archangels let us hymn the Resurrection of Christ; * for he is the Redeemer and the Saviour of our souls; * and he is coming again * with great glory and mighty power * to judge the world which he hath fashioned.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

An Angel proclaimed thee, the crucified and buried Master, * and said to the women; * 'Come, see where the Lord lay. * For as He foretold, He hath arisen as all-powerful'. * Therefore we worship Thee, the only Immortal One. * O Christ, giver of life, have mercy on us.

Tone 1 Verse: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? * For with Thee there is forgiveness.

With fervent supplication, O brethren, let us now begin to chant hymns to the new favorites of God; for, cleansed through fearsome torments, they have been shown to be branches of the true vine of Christ, abundantly watered with the sweetness of grace, set forth before us in the fragrance of their holiness. And edified by their struggle, with compunction let us also offer unto-God the fruit of repentance.

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O ye mountains of Kiev which were blessed by the cross of the Apostle Andrew, praise ye the beginning of the dread baptism wherewith the land of Russia hath been baptized anew. For where grace shone forth upon the Russian people through water and the Spirit, unto the opening of the kingdom of God, there was it fitting for this renewal to begin, through the blood of the first slain among the Russian hierarchs, the namesake of the enlightener of the Russian land. For this new Vladimir, led forth from his vineyard through the gates of the sacred Lavra of the Caves, was vouchsafed the crown of Stephen, forgiving and blessing those who slew him, as a meek intercessor for our souls.

Verse: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope in the Lord.

Lamentation, and mournful song, and woe: lo! the scroll of Ezekiel which filled thy soul to satiety, O holy Tikhon our Patriarch! May thy voice be heard even now, saying: "O brethren, archpastors and pastors, summon thy children to the defense of the Orthodox Church!" And may they that destroy the churches of God hearken to thy fiery discourse: "If ye but call yourselves Christians, we anathematize you by the authority given us by God!" O dread and everlasting excommunication! Behold an anathema lifted by no one! Behold the boldness of the Patriarch!

Verse: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

O our holy Tsar and passion-bearer Nicholas, O new and saintly Tsaritsa Alexandra, O child Alexis, heir to heavenly things, and royal maidens Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia: ye who were abandoned by the ungrateful, O holy band of seven, who through many humiliations found ascent to heaven, leading with you four fellow sufferers: pray with them to our supremely good God, that He vouchsafe the exceeding sinful people of Russia forgiveness, bring peace to the world, and save our souls.

Tone 4, Verse: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; * praise Him, all ye peoples.

Meek, yet steadfast, wast thou, O elect of the city of Peter, hieromartyr Benjamin, who wast condemned by new Copronymuses and betrayed by false pastors to an authority opposed to God. For then God revealed thee a fearless teacher. Behold, here is thy testament proclaimed from imprisonment: "For the sake of the Church, let us not spare ourselves, and let us not betray the holy Church for our own sake!" And at the lawless tribunal thy discourse was amazing to all: "Ye offer me now death or life; but signing myself with the sign of the holy Cross, I say: Glory to Thee for all things, O Lord God!"

Verse: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, * and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

O victims for God who were buried live, cast down into a well-like pit! First of all the passion-bearer Elizabeth, the merciful princess who strove for the things of heaven, finding the pearl of Orthodoxy in her new homeland, who in accordance with the Gospel forgave the slayer of her husband, and who pleased God with prayer and benevolence, yet was not spared by the godless! Pray also for us, ye holy princes! Pray for all, ye venerable passion-bearers Elizabeth and faithful Barbara! Hearken unto us, ye who were buried in the Garden of Gethsemane. Give ear to us, ye whose place of burial is unknown! Hear us, ye holy seven, received together into the mansions of heaven, and pray to God on our behalf!

Glory..., in Tone 8:

Your steadfast courage is the glory of the Church of Russia, O new passion-bearers and confessors, for ye are the disciples of Philip and Hermogenes, and the servants of the much-suffering Patriarch Tikhon, who gave you your name. Persecuted and slain, ye remained in tribulations with patience. And who can reckon the number of your torments and bitter deaths? Yet ye showed yourselves to be preachers to those with you in bondage, enlighteners of those who before were unbelievers, performers of the holy Mysteries. Great is your love for Christ, great is your faith! In all things ye have shown yourselves to be servants of God!

Now & Ever ..., in Tone 2:

The shadow of the law hath passed now that grace hath come, * for as the Burning Bush was not consumed, * so didst thou bear a Child O Virgin * and remained a Virgin; * instead of a pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath dawned, * instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls.

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with reverent voices, O Son of God, Giver of life. Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

Prokeimenon in Tone 6: The Lord is King, * He is clothed with majesty.

Verse 1: The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Verse 2: For He established the universe which shall not be shaken.

Verse 3: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

A READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH [43:9-13]

Thus saith the Lord: All the nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them: who will declare these things? or who will declare to you things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the truth. Be ye My witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am He; before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. I am God; and beside Me there is no Savior. I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you: ye are my witnesses, and I am the Lord God, even from the beginning; and there is none that can deliver out of My hands: I will work, and who shall turn it back? Thus saith the Lord God that redeemeth you, the Holy One of Israel.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON [3:1-9]

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastened, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself. As gold in the furnace hath He tried them and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON [4:7-15]

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him: so that living among sinners he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened He to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood naught, neither laid they up this in their minds, that His grace and mercy is with His servants, and that He hath respect unto His chosen.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages of ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes. O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the works of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *12 times.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Resurrection Aposticha. Tone 2

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour, * hath enlightened the whole universe; * and thou hast called back thine own creation. * O All-powerful Lord, glory be to thee!

Verse 1: The Lord is King: He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Nullifying the curse of the tree through a tree, O Saviour, * thou didst slay the might of death by thy burial, * enlightening our race by thine Arising; * wherefore we cry out to thee; * 'O Giver of life, Christ our God, * glory be to thee!'

Verse 2: For He established the universe which shall not be shaken.

Appearing nailed to the Cross, O Christ, * thou hast altered the beauty of all created things; * and while the soldiers showed their inhumanity by piercing thy side with a lance, * the Hebrews asked that thy tomb be sealed, * not understanding thy power; * but in thy merciful compassion thou didst accept burial and rise on the third day. * O Lord, glory be to thee!

Verse 3: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

For the sake of mortal mankind, * O Christ Giver of life, * thou didst willingly endure the Passion; * and as all-powerful thou didst descend into Hades, * snatching from the hand of the mighty one * the souls of those who awaited therein thy coming * granting them to dwell in Paradise instead of Hades, * vouchsafe also unto us who glorify thine Arising on the third day * the pardon of our iniquities and thy great mercy.

Glory ..., in tone 6:

O holy and most humble priests and confessors, we see how during the dreadful time of persecutions ye were banished far from your homes. We see you starving, afflicted with scurvy, bereft of your comeliness, covered with bleeding sores, beaten and deprived of sleep by guardsmen, weeping over abandoned children and their defenseless mothers. And who can record all your names? Who can relate to the world all that ye have suffered? Yet God knoweth His elect who have preserved the pledge they had given, even unto death, therefore possessing the boldness to pray for us.

Now & ever ..., in the same tone:

O Theotokos, thou help of the helpless! Help even now the suffering people of the Russian land, who are in prison, torment or grievous circumstances: We beseech thee, O Sovereign Lady, with all the holy new martyrs and confessors of our generation: pray that thy servants be delivered from many tribulations.

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; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *Thrice.*

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot but 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, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Troparion, Tone 2:

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, * then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Godhead. * And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, * all the Hosts of the heavens cried out: * 'O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee'.

Glory: Tone 4:

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion-bearers and pastors, * monks and laymen, * ye countless new martyrs and confessors, * men, women and children, * flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, * who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions, * bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: * entreat Him as the One Who hath planted you, * that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, * and that the Church of Russia be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, ** unto the salvation of our souls.

Now & Ever: Tone 4:

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of Angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and saved our souls from death.

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

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.