

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.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! **(Thrice)**

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 they 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. * Hearken 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. * Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth * as incense before Thee, * the lifting up of my hands * as an evening sacrifice. * Hearken 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. Bring my soul out of prison: that I may confess Thy name. The righteous shall wait patiently for me * until Thou shalt reward me. Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice. Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

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

While the disciples were gathered, * and the doors were shut, * Thou didst enter of a sudden, O Almighty Jesus, our God. * And standing in their midst, Thou didst grant them peace, * and didst fill them with the Holy Spirit. * Thou didst command them to tarry, and in no wise depart from Jerusalem * until they be vested with power from on high. * Wherefore, we cry to Thee: ** O our Enlightenment and Resurrection and Peace, glory be to Thee.

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.

Eight days after Thine arising, O Lord, * Thou didst appear unto Thy disciples in the place where they were gathered, * and Thou didst pronounce unto them: Peace be unto you. * And Thou didst show Thy hands and immaculate side unto the doubting disciple. * Wherefore, believing, he cried unto Thee: ** O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

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

When thou didst enter, O Christ, while the doors were shut, * Thomas, who was called the Twain, was not with them. * Wherefore he doubted that which was told him, * by unbelief thus confirming his belief. * And Thou, O Good One didst not disdain to show him * Thine immaculate side * and the wounds of Thy hands and feet. * Wherefore, having touched and beheld, he confessed * that Thou art neither naked God nor mere man, ** and he cried: O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

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

As the disciples were in doubt, * the Savior came on the eighth day to where they were gathered * and having granted them peace, He cried unto Thomas saying: * Come, O Apostle, and feel the palms in which they fastened the nails. * O the good unbelief of Thomas, * which hath led the hearts of the faithful to knowledge! * Hence, he cried out with fear: ** O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

Tone 2: Verse: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; * praise Him, all ye peoples.

After Thine arising, O Lord, * Thou didst stand in the midst of Thy disciples when they were gathered together, * while the doors were shut, granting them peace. * And Thomas became convinced at beholding Thy hands and side, * confessing that Thou art the Lord and God, ** Who dost save those who hope in Thee, O Lover of mankind.

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

Jesus came unto the disciples while the doors were shut, * and granted them peace and fearlessness. * Whereupon He saith unto Thomas: * Why believest thou not that I have arisen from the dead? * Bring hither thy hand and place it in My side, and see; * because thou hast disbelieved, all have learned of My Passion and Resurrection, * and they shall all cry out with thee: ** O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

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

Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ, * while the doors were shut. * Then, by dispensation, Thomas was not found to be among them; * for he said: I will not believe unless I behold the Master, * and see the side from whence issued the blood, the water, and the baptism, * and observe the wound through which man, the great wound, was healed, * and see that He is not a spirit, but flesh and bones. * O Thou Who didst trample down death and didst instruct Thomas, ** O Lord, Glory be to Thee.

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.

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 Aposticha. Tone 4:

O strange wonder, * unbelief hath given birth unto steadfast faith! * For Thomas said: Unless I see, I shall not believe. * And when he touched the side of Christ, he spake with divine authority * concerning the Incarnate One Who is the very Son of God, * and recognizing Him as the One Who suffered in the flesh, * he proclaimed the Risen God, * and cried with a radiant voice: ** O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

Verse 1: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; * praise thy God, O Sion.

O strange wonder, * that grass should touch fire and be safe! * For Thomas thrust his hand into the fiery side of Jesus Christ our God, * and was not burned by touching. * For with fervor he changed the obstinacy of his soul into fervent faith, * and he cried out from the depths of his soul: * Thou art my Master and God, ** Who didst arise from the dead. Glory be to Thee.

Verse 2: For He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates, * He hath blessed thy sons within thee.

O strange wonder! * John leaned on the bosom of the Word, and Thomas was deemed worthy to feel His side. * The first, in a dread manner, drew there- from a depth of theology, even God's condescension; * and Thomas was deemed worthy to teach us the mystery; * for he openly presented the proofs of His arising, as he cried out: ** O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

Glory..., Now & ever ..., in Tone 5:

O Lover of mankind, great and unsearchable is the multitude of Thy compassions! * for in Thy longsuffering, * Thou wast struck by the Jews, and examined by an Apostle, * and wast disputed over by them that rejected Thee. * How didst Thou become incarnate? * How wast Thou, the Sinless One, crucified? * But grant us understanding, that, like Thomas, * we may cry out to Thee: ** O my Lord and my God, glory be to Thee.

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.*

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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.

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our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Troparion, Tone 7:

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, * didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; * and whilst the doors were shut, * Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, * renewing through them an upright Spirit in us ** according to Thy great mercy.

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.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! **(Thrice)**