

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.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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 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.

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. * 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 1: Bring my soul out of prison: that I may confess Thy name.

Receive our evening prayers, * O Holy Lord, * and grant us remission of sins; * because Thou alone hast revealed * the Resurrection to the world.

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

Go around Zion, O ye peoples, * and encompass her, * and give glory to him who in her midst arose from the dead; * for he is our God, * and hath delivered us from our iniquities

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

Come O ye peoples, * let us hymn and worship Christ * glorifying his Resurrection from the dead: * for he is our God, * who hath redeemed the world from the wiles of the adversary.

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

Rejoice, O ye heavens! * Sound the trumpets O ye foundations of the earth! * O Ye mountains thunder forth your joy! * for behold, Emmanuel hath nailed our sins to the Cross, * and the giver of life, hath slain death * raising up Adam, * as He alone loveth mankind.

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

Let us sing the praise of him * who was willingly crucified in the flesh for our sakes, * suffered and was buried, and arose from the dead, * as we cry: * 'Establish thy Church in Orthodox belief, O Christ, * and grant peace unto our lives, * as Thou alone art good and lovest mankind'.

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.

As we the unworthy ones stand before thy life-bearing tomb * we offer a hymn of glory * to thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God; * because Thou didst accept the Cross and death, * O sinless one, * that Thou mightest grant resurrection to the world, * as Thou alone lovest mankind.

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

Let us sing the praises of the Word, * without beginning and co-eternal, with the Father, * who came forth ineffably from a virgin womb, * willingly accepting the Cross and Death

for our sake * and arose in glory, * wherefore we cry aloud: * 'Giver of life, O Lord, glory be to thee, * the Saviour of our souls'.

Tone 6:

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

Thou wast standing before the doors of the Church, polluted with evil and unable to enter. Accused by thine own conscience, O wise one of God, thou wast converted to a better way of life. Looking upon the icon of the blessed Mother of God, thou didst condemn all thy past sins, O Mother Mary,//and didst go to bow before the precious Cross.

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

Having worshipped at the holy places with great joy, thou didst receive saving grace for thy journey of virtue. Thou didst set out in haste to follow the narrow path, crossing the river Jordan, and going to live where the Baptist had dwelt. Through self-denial thou didst tame the savagery of the passions, and through violence thou didst break the rebellion of thy flesh,// taking the Kingdom of God by force.

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

Thou didst live alone in the wilderness, and as thou didst erase the images of sin from thy soul, God marked it with the imprint of holiness. Filled with the spirit, O Blessed Mother, thou didst walk on the surface of the waters; by thy prayers thou didst ascend from earth to heaven. Since thou standest before Christ, O glorious Mary,//entreat Him with boldness to save our souls!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Tone 1

The power of thy Cross has worked a wonder, O Christ. Through it a harlot became a champion of the ascetic life. She cast aside her weakness and bravely fought the devil, and having won the prize of victory,// she doth ceaselessly pray for our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Tone 1:

Let us hymn the whole world's glory, * engendered from mankind and who gave birth to the Master, * the Portal of heaven, Mary the Virgin, * the song of the Bodiless Powers and adornment of the faithful; * for she hath been proclaimed the Heaven and Temple of the Godhead. * By destroying the middle wall, she hath brought peace instead of enmity * and opened wide the King's palace. * Therefore, holding fast to her as an anchor of the faith, * we have as our champion the Lord born from her. * Take courage therefore,

take courage, O ye people of God; * for as the Invincible one he will make war on our adversaries.

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.

The Prokimenon in the 6th Tone:The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

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

For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

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 Resurrection Aposticha. Tone 1:

By thy Passion, O Christ, * we have been set free from passions, * and by thy Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption. * O Lord, glory be to thee.

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

All ye His creation rejoice! * let the heavens be glad, * let the nations clap their hands with gladness; * for Christ our Saviour hath nailed our sins to the Cross * and by slaying death hath granted us life eternal, * raising all of the fallen race of Adam, * as he alone loveth mankind.

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

Being the King of heaven and earth, * O Incomprehensible one, * Thou wast willingly crucified through Thy love for mankind; * when Hades met thee he was vexed, * while the souls of the righteous receiving thee below rejoiced, * and Adam, seeing thee his Creator in the nethermost regions, rose again. * O the wonder! * How did the life of all

taste death? * Except that he wished to enlighten the world, * which cries out saying: * 'O Thou who didst arise from the dead, * O Lord glory be to thee!'

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

Carrying sweet spices the myrrh-bearing women * reached thy tomb with haste, lamenting; * and not finding thy most pure Body, * but learning from the Angel the new and marvelous wonder, * spake unto the Apostles saying: * The Lord hath arisen, * granting the world His great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Tone 2.

With the sword of abstinence, thou didst cut down the corrupt desires of thy soul and the passions of thy flesh. With the silence of the wilderness thou didst strangle thy sinful words and thoughts. Thou didst water the desert with the streams of thy tears, and madest the fruits of repentance to grow for us.// We celebrate thy memory, O holy one.

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

O new wonder greater than all the wonders of old! * For who hath ever known a mother to give birth without having known a man, * and to bear on her arm Him Who sustaineth all creation? * Yet it was the will of God to be born. * O all-pure one, who carried Him as an infant in thy embrace * and towards Whom thou hast gained a mother's freedom of supplication: * cease not to pray in behalf of those who honor thee, * that He have compassion and save our souls.

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 1:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, * And the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, * Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, * granting life unto the world. * Wherefore, the Hosts of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Life-giver: * Glory to

Thy Resurrection, O Christ. * Glory to Thy kingdom. * Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Tone 8.

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.// Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin * and, having endured crucifixion, * cast down death by death, and as God revealed the resurrection: * disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand. * Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; * Accept the supplications of the Theotokos who bore Thee, * and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

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.

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.