

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 gifts * and Giver of life: * come and abide 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. * 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.

Tone 1:

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

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

We celebrate Pentecost * and the coming of the Spirit, * and the time appointed for the promise, * and the fulfillment of hope. * How great is this mystery: * it is both exceeding great and most venerable. * Wherefore, we cry unto Thee: ** O Creator of all, Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

Thou hast renewed Thy disciples with foreign tongues, O Christ, * that they might therewith proclaim Thee, * the immortal Word and God, ** Who granteth our souls great mercy.

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

The Holy Spirit provideth all things; * He gusheth forth prophecy; * He perfecteth the priesthood; * He hath taught wisdom to the illiterate. * He hath shown forth the fishermen as theologians. * He holdeth together the whole institution of the Church. * Wherefore, O Comforter, * one in essence and throne with the Father and the Son, ** glory be to Thee.

Tone 2:

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

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.

We have seen the true Light; * we have received the Heavenly Spirit; * we have found the true Faith, * we worship the indivisible Trinity; ** for He hath saved us.

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

In the Prophets Thou didst proclaim unto us * the way of salvation, * and the grace of Thy Spirit hath shone in the Apostles, O our Savior; * Thou art God Who art from the beginning, * and for time to come, and unto the ages, ** Thou art our God.

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

In Thy courts shall I praise Thee, * the Savior of the world, * and bending my knee I shall worship Thine invincible might. * In the evening, in the morn, at midday, ** and at all times shall I bless Thee, O Lord.

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

In Thy courts, O Lord, as we the faithful * bend the knee of the soul and the body, * we praise Thee, the beginningless Father, * the co-beginningless Son, * and the co-eternal and Most holy Spirit, ** Who dost enlighten and sanctify our souls.

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

Let us praise the consubstantial Trinity: * the Father and the Son, with the Holy Spirit; * for thus did all the Prophets and Apostles preach, ** with the Martyrs.

Glory ..., Both now and ever ..., in Tone 8

Come, O ye peoples, * let us worship the Godhead in three Hypostases: * the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit; * for the Father timelessly begat the Son, * Who is co-eternal and of one throne; * and the Holy Spirit was in the Father, glorified with the Son; * one Might, one essence, one Godhead, * which we all worship, saying: * Holy God, Who didst create all things through the Son, * with the co-operation of the Holy Spirit. * Holy Mighty, through Whom we have known the Father, * and through Whom the Holy Spirit came to the world. * Holy Immortal, the Comforting Spirit, * Who proceedest from the Father and retest in the Son. ** O Holy Trinity, 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.

THE READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

The Lord said to Moses: "Gather Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom thou thyself knowest that they are the elders of the people, and their scribes; and thou shalt bring them to the tabernacle of witness, and they shall stand there with thee. And I will go down, and speak there with thee; and I will take of the Spirit that is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear together with thee the assaults of the people, and thou shalt not bear them alone." And Moses went out, and spake the words of the Lord to the people; and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people, and he set them round about the tabernacle. And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and put it upon the seventy men that were

elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied and ceased. And there were two men left in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad; and the Spirit rested upon them, and these were of the number of those who were enrolled, but they did not come to the tabernacle; and they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, and spake, saying: "Eldad and Medad prophesy in the camp." And Joshua the son of Nun, who attended on Moses, the chosen one, said: "Lord Moses, forbid them." And Moses said to him: "Art thou jealous on my account? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets; whenever the Lord shall put His Spirit upon them."

THE READING IS FROM THE PROPHECY OF JOEL

Thus saith the Lord: "Rejoice and be glad, ye children of Zion, in the Lord your God; for He hath given you food fully, and will rain upon you the early and the latter rain, as before. And the floors shall be filled with wheat, and the presses shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will recompense you for the years which the locust, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, and the cankerworm have eaten, even My great army, which I sent against you. And ye shall eat abundantly, and be satisfied, and shall praise the name of the Lord your God for the things which He hath wrought wonderfully with you: and My people shall not be shamed forever. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and there is none else beside Me; and My people shall no more be ashamed forever. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. And on My servants and handmaids in those days will I pour out of My Spirit. And I will show wonders in heaven, and upon the earth: blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord is come. And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

THE READING IS FROM EZEKIEL

Thus said the Lord: "I will take you out from the nations, and will gather you out of all the lands, and will bring you into your own land: and I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be purged from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, and I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and will put a new spirit in you: and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you, and will cause you to walk in Mine ordinances, and to keep My judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell upon the land which I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be to Me a people, and I will be to you a God."

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 of the Feast, in Tone 6:

Being ignorant of the power of Thy most holy Spirit, * which was come unto Thine Apostles, O Lord, * the heathen imagined the diversity of tongues to be drunkenness. * But we who are established by them speak thus unceasingly: * Take not Thy Holy Spirit from us, we pray, ** O Lover of mankind.

Verse: Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me.

O Lord, the descent of the Holy Spirit, * which enveloped Thine Apostles, * made them to speak with other tongues. * Hence, the strange wonder was thought to be drunkenness by the unbelievers, * but to the believers it was a cause of salvation. * Wherefore, we beseech Thee to grant us also His illumination, ** O Lover of mankind.

Verse: Cast me not away from Thy presence, * and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Heavenly King, * Comforter, Spirit of Truth, * Who art everywhere present * and fillest all things, * Treasury of good gifts * and Giver of life: * come and abide in us, * and cleanse us of all impurity, ** and save our souls, O Good One.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., in Tone 8:

Of old the tongues were confounded * because of the audacity in the building of the tower, * but now the tongues are made wise * because of the glory of Divine knowledge. * There God condemned the impious because of their offense, * and here Christ hath enlightened the fishermen by the Spirit. * At that time the confusion of tongues was wrought for punishment, * but now the concord of tongues hath been inaugurated ** for the salvation of 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.

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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 8:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, * Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise, * by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, *and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. ** O Lover of mankind, 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.

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.