

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 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.

Verse: Tone 4: Bring my soul out of prison * that I may confess Thy name.

Unceasingly worshipping Thy life-giving Cross, O Christ God, * we glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, * for through it, O All-powerful one, * Thou hast renewed

corrupted human nature * and shown us the way to heaven, ** since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

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

By being willingly nailed to the tree of the Cross, O Savior, * Thou hast abolished the penalty of the tree of disobedience; * and by descending into Hades, O All-powerful one, * as God Thou hast torn asunder the bonds of death. * Wherefore we worship Thy Resurrection from the dead, and we cry out with joy: ** O All-powerful Lord, glory be to Thee!

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

Thou hast shattered the gates of Hades, O Lord, * and by Thy death Thou hast destroyed the dominion of death; * delivering mankind from corruption, * granting the world life, incorruption, ** and great mercy.

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

Come O ye peoples, let us hymn the Savior's Rising on the third day, * whereby we were redeemed from the unbreakable bonds of Hades * obtaining incorruption and life, as we cry aloud: * 'Thou, who wast crucified and buried and rose again, ** save us by Thy Resurrection, O only Lover of mankind.'

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

There is come now the middle of those days * which commence with the saving Arising * and which are sealed by the sacred Pentecost. * Illumined by both feasts and joining both, * we come to render glory and honor beforehand ** to the regal Ascension.

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.

Sion heard and rejoiced when it received the glad tidings * of Christ's Resurrection, * and all of her faithful offspring greatly rejoice upon beholding Him, * Who by the grace of the Spirit * doth Wash away the stain of the murder of Christ, * preparing to solemnly celebrate ** the joyous Mid-festival of both feasts.

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

The bountiful pouring forth of the Spirit upon all, * is now at hand as the Scripture saith. * This is proclaimed by the mid-point of the blessed season * after Christ's death, burial

and arising, * when He gave unto His disciples * His unfailing and true promise, ** which revealed most clearly the coming of the Comforter.

3 Stichera of the Paralytic, in Tone 1:

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

At the sixth hour the Well-spring of miracles * came to the well to capture the fruit of Eve, * for Eve at this same hour departed from Paradise * through the deceit of the serpent. * The Samaritan woman, therefore, drew nigh to draw water, * and the Savior, upon seeing her, said to her: * Give Me water to drink, and I shall fill thee with living water. * And running to the city, that prudent woman at once announced to the multitudes: ** Come, behold Christ the Lord, the Savior of our souls.

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

When the compassionate Lord came unto the well, * the Samaritan woman entreated Him, saying: * Grant me the water of faith, * and I shall receive the waters of the font of baptism unto rejoicing and redemption. ** O Giver of life, Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

The co-beginningless and co-eternal Son and Word of the Father, * the Well-spring of healings, came to the well, * and a woman of Samaria came to draw water. * And when the Savior saw her, He said: * Give Me water to drink, and go, call thy husband. * But addressing Him as a man and not as God, * and being anxious to hide herself from Him, she said: I have no husband. * And the Teacher replied: Thou hast truly said, I have no husband; * for thou hast had five, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband. * And she, amazed by these words, hastened to the city * and cried out unto the multitudes, saying: ** Come, behold Christ, Who granteth the world great mercy.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

By Jacob's Well, Jesus found the Samaritan woman. * He that covereth the earth with clouds asked water of her. * O wonder! He that rideth on the Cherubim speaketh with a harlot woman, * asking for water, * He Who hath suspended the earth upon the waters. * He Who causeth springs and pools of waters to flow forth seeketh water, * for He wished to draw to Himself her who was truly ensnared by the contending enemy, * and to impart the water of life unto her * who was sorely inflamed with unseemly deeds, ** for He alone is tenderly compassionate and the Lover of mankind.

Now & Ever ..., Theotokion Dogmatic, in Tone 4:

Prophet David, the ancestor of God, * spoke of thee in psalmody unto Him who hath accomplished great things in thee. * For God was well pleased without father to become a man from thee, * the Queen who standeth at His right hand, * and He - the source of life - showed thee to be His mother, * that he might renew his own image, corrupted by the passions. * Having found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain * He hath laid it upon his shoulders, * that he may bring it to his Father; * and in accordance with his own will * unite it to the heavenly Powers * and thus, O Theotokos, save the world, ** Christ, who is richly and abundantly merciful.

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 Resurrection Aposticha, in Tone 4:

O Lord, by ascending the Cross * Thou hast wiped out our ancestral curse, * and by descending into Hades * Thou hast set free those enchained therein from all ages, * granting incorruption to mankind; * wherefore with hymns we glorify ** Thy life-giving and saving Arising.

Verse 1: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, * and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

Paschal Stichera, in Tone 5:

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; * Pascha new and holy, * a Pascha mystical, * a Pascha all-venerable! * A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; * a Pascha immaculate, * a great Pascha; * a Pascha of the faithful; * a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; ** a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

Verse 2: As smoke vanisheth, * so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, * and say ye unto Zion: * Receive from us the good tidings * of the Resurrection of Christ; * adorn thyself, exult, * and rejoice, O Jerusalem, * for thou hast seen Christ the King, ** like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

Verse 3: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, * and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women * in the deep dawn * stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; * they found an angel sitting upon the stone, * and he, speaking to them, said thus: * Why seek ye the Living among the dead? * Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? ** Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

Verse 4: This is the day which the Lord hath made, * let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, * Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, * the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. * Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. * O Pascha! * Ransom from sorrow, * for from the tomb today, * as from a bridal chamber, * hath Christ shone forth, * and hath filled the women with joy, saying: ** Proclaim unto the apostles.

Glory..., in Tone 8:

When by Thine unfathomable dispensation Thou didst appear on earth, O Christ God, * the Samaritan woman, on hearing Thy words O lover of mankind, * left the water jar at the well and hastened to those in the city and said: * Come, behold One Who knoweth men's hearts; ** mayhap He is the expected Christ, Who hath great mercy.

Now and ever:

It is the Day of Resurrection, * let us be radiant for the feast, * and let us embrace one another. * Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, * let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, * and thus let us cry out: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

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.*

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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 4:

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, * and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, * the women disciples of the Lord spake exultantly to the apostles: * 'Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, ** granting the world great mercy'.

Glory ..., Now & Ever: Tone 8:

At Mid-feast give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; * for Thou, O Savior, didst cry out to all: * Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ** Wherefore, O Well-spring of life, Christ our 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.

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)**