

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.

Verse: Tone 5: Bring my soul out of prison * that I may confess Thy name.

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ, * Thou hast shamed the devil, * and by Thy Resurrection Thou hast blunted the sting of sin, * and saved us from the gates of death: ** we glorify Thee, the Only-begotten One.

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

He who hath granted Resurrection to mankind, * was led as a sheep to the slaughter; * the princes of Hades trembled before Him * and the gates of lamentations were lifted up; * for Christ the King of glory entered therein, * saying to those in bondage: 'Come forth!' ** and to those in darkness: 'Reveal yourselves!'

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

He who hath granted Resurrection to mankind, * was led as a sheep to the slaughter; * the princes of Hades trembled before Him * and the gates of lamentations were lifted up; * for Christ the King of glory entered therein, * saying to those in bondage: 'Come forth!' ** and to those in darkness: 'Reveal yourselves!'

Verse, Tone 2: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

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

He that was born blind thought to himself and said: * Was I born without eyes for the sins of my parents? * Was I born to be an example because of the unbelief of the nations? * I cease not from asking: When is it night, when is it day? * My feet cannot endure striking against the stones. * For I have neither seen the sun shining nor beheld in image Him Who fashioned me. ** But I beseech Thee, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on me.

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 Jesus passed by on His way from the temple, * He found a man who was blind from his birth; * and taking compassion on him, He put clay on his eyes and said unto him: * Go and wash in the pool of Siloam. * And he washed and gained his sight, and sent up praise to God. * But his kinsmen said unto him: * Who hath opened thine eyes, which none of those who see were able to heal? * And he cried out and said: * A man called Jesus; He told me: Wash in the pool of Siloam; and I gained my sight. * He is truly Christ the Messiah, of Whom Moses spake in the Law. ** He is the Savior of our souls.

Verse, Tone 2: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope in the Lord.

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown the divinely wise teachers who illumined with the light of the Gospel the Slavic nations who sat in the darkness of ignorance and

the shadow of death? By them have we been grafted onto the rightly fruitful root of Orthodoxy like a wild olive-tree, and have received from Christ God, peace and great mercy.

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

With what hymns of praise shall we bless the divinely wise teachers: Methodius, the lover of the wilderness, who was enriched with the fruits of the Spirit during his solitary sojourn, and Cyril of golden eloquence, who through his love of philosophy acquired higher wisdom and put to shame the vain belief of the foolish Moslem sages? For their sake hath Christ our God granted us great mercy.

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

With what beauties of hymnody shall we praise the divinely wise teachers: Methodius, who for love of Christ spurned all the beauties of the world and fought mightily for the King of heaven in the angelic habit, and Cyril, who from childhood chose wisdom as his companion and increased the talents given him by God unto His glory? Having come, through them, to know the one God, the ever-existing Trinity the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, wherewith we have received great mercy from Christ God.

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

With what spiritual hymns shall we magnify you, O most blessed teachers, who struggled as an apostle for the salvation of the Slavic peoples and labored well in their enlightenment with the light of the knowledge of God, by whom the closed gates thereto have been opened to us when ye devised the Slavonic alphabet? Entering therein, we come to understand the mystery of the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ, and receive from Christ God grace and great mercy.

Glory..., in Tone 5:

Passing by on the way, O Lord, * Thou didst find a man who was blind from his birth. * And the disciples, in astonishment, asked Thee and said: * Teacher, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? * And Thou, O my Savior, didst cry unto them: Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, * but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. * I must work the works of Him that sent Me, which none else can work. * And when Thou hadst said this, Thou didst spit upon the ground * and make clay, and anoint his eyes, saying unto him: * Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. * And he washed and was made whole and cried unto Thee: * Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Thee. ** Wherefore, we also cry out: Have mercy upon us.

Now & Ever ..., Theotokion Dogmatic, in Tone 5:

In the Red Sea of old an image of the Bride who knew not wedlock was depicted. * There Moses was the one who parted the sea, * here Gabriel is the minister of the miracle. * At that time Israel marched dry-shod through the deep, * now the Virgin doth seedlessly give birth to Christ. * The sea after Israel's passage remained impassable; * the Immaculate one after bearing Emmanuel remained incorrupt. * O God, who doth exist and is pre-eternal, * and hath appeared as man, ** have mercy upon us.

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 5:

With voices of song we magnify Thee, O Christ, * the Savior incarnate, * yet not separated from heaven, * for as the Lord who lovest mankind * Thou hast suffered the cross and death for the sake of our race, * overthrowing the gates of Hades, * and rising on the third day, * thus saving our souls.

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:

Rejoice, O sacred twain who have illumined us with the light of the knowledge of God: Cyril, the life-bearing well-spring of spiritual wisdom, who hath given drink to the Slavic peoples, perishing with thirst, and Methodius, the pure abode of prayer. Pray ye earnestly to Christ, before Whom ye stand in glory, that, with you, we also may magnify and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Now and ever:

O Christ God, Thou spiritual Sun of Righteousness, * Who by Thy most pure touch didst bestow a twofold enlightenment * upon him who from his mother's womb was deprived of sight, * illumine Thou the eyes of our souls also, * and prove us to be sons of the day, that we may cry to Thee with faith: ** Great and ineffable is Thy compassion toward us, O Lover of man; 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.*

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 5:

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word * Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, * and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; * for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh * and to endure death, ** and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Glory Tone 4:

In that ye share the ways of the apostles, * O divinely wise Cyril and Methodius, * ye teachers of the Slavic lands, * entreat the Master of all, * that He confirm all the Slavic nations * in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind, ** and granting peace to the world may our souls be saved.

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 being made flesh in a union without confusion, * and willingly accepting the Cross for us * hath through it raised the first-formed man, * and thus 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.

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