

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.

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

Victorious over Hades, O Christ, * Thou didst ascend the Cross * that Thou mightest raise up with Thyself * those who sat in the darkness of death; * free among the dead, * Thou didst pour forth life from Thine own light. ** O All-powerful Savior, have mercy on us.

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

Today Christ, having trampled on death, * hath arisen as He foretold, * granting joy to the world, * that we may all cry aloud the hymn and say: * O Source of life, O unapproachable light, * O All-powerful Savior, ** have mercy on us.

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

Where shall we sinners escape Thee, O Lord, * who art present in all creation? * In heaven? Thou dwellest there. * In Hades? There Thou didst trample on death. * In the depths of the sea? Thy hand is also there O Master. * To Thee we flee and falling down before Thee we implore: ** O Lord risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

Verse, Tone 6: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

The Lord was taken up into the Heavens * that He might send the Comforter unto the world. * The Heavens made ready His throne, and the clouds His Ascension. * The Angels marvel as they see a man more exalted than they. * The Father receiveth Him Whom He had with Him eternally in His bosom. * The Holy Spirit commandeth all His Angels: * Lift up your gates, O ye princes. * All ye nations, clap your hands; ** Christ hath ascended whither He was before.

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

O Lord, the Cherubim were amazed at Thine Ascension, * when they beheld Thee, O God, Who sittest on them, * ascending upon the clouds. * And we glorify Thee, for Thy mercy is good. ** 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.

Having beheld Thine ascents on the holy mountains, O Christ, * Thou effulgence of the Father's glory, * we praise the radiant likeness of thy countenance. * We worship Thy passion, * we honor Thy Resurrection, * and we glorify Thy glorious Ascension. ** Have mercy on us.

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

Before the morning star * from the womb Thou wast begotten from the Father * motherless before the ages, * though Arius held Thou wast created and thus not God, * boldly and mindlessly identifying thee, the Creator, * with things created, * thus storing up fuel for the eternal fire. * But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that Thou, O Lord, ** art truly the Son of God, * one in rank with the Father and the Spirit.

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

O My Savior, Who hath rent Thy raiment? * Thou didst say: It was Arius who hath cut asunder the Trinity's headship, * which is one in rank and honour, * disputing that Thou art One of the Most Holy Trinity; * thereby teaching Nestorius the godless one * to not say Theotokos. * But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that Thou, O Lord, * art truly the Son of God, ** one in rank with the Father and the Spirit.

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

Keeping his eyes shut, that he might not see light, * Arius fell headlong into the deep pit of sin. * His bowels were rent asunder by a divine hook, * such that he violently gave up all his substance and his soul * and in this manner became another Judas, * through his most evil purpose and disposition. * But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that Thou, O Lord, * art truly the Son of God, ** one in rank with the Father and the Spirit.

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

Mindless, foolish Arius * once divided the all-holy Trinity's sole dominion * thus making three essences, * dissimilar and foreign. * Hence, the God-bearing Fathers fervently gathered together, * burning with zeal like Elias the Tishbite, * cutting down with the sharp sword of the Holy Spirit * the vile blasphemers, who taught blasphemous doctrines, ** as thus the Spirit revealed unto them.

Glory ..., in Tone 6:

Let us acclaim today * those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, * the God-bearing Fathers, who, in the midst of the Church, * sang a harmonious song of theology, * teaching that the Trinity is one, unchanging in essence and Godhead; * they are the refuters of Arius, * and the foremost warriors of the Orthodox. ** And they ever intercede with the Lord that our souls find mercy.

Now & ever ..., in Tone 6:

Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? * Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? * For the only-begotten Son Who hath shone forth timelessly from the Father, * came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, O pure one; * By nature he is God, by nature for our sakes, he hath become a man * not divided into two Hypostases, * but known in two natures without comingling. * Him do thou beseech, O pure and all-blessed one, ** that our souls find mercy!

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.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS [14:14-20]

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY [1:8-11, 15-17]

In those days Moses said unto the sons of Israel: Behold, I have set the land before you, go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them. And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (The Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as He hath promised you!) So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY [10:14-21]

In those days Moses said unto the sons of Israel: Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you above

all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

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 6:

Thy Resurrection O Christ our Savior, * The Angels in the heavens hymn; * grant also unto us who are here on earth ** to glorify Thee with pure hearts.

Verse 1: The Lord is King: He is clothed with majesty. * The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Thou as God all-powerful, hast smashed the gates of brass and shattered the bars of Hades, * and Thou hast raised the fallen human race. * Therefore with one accord we also cry out to Thee: ** O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to Thee!

Verse 2: For He established the universe * which shall not be shaken.

Wishing to restore us from our ancient fall, * Christ wast nailed to a Cross and placed in a tomb. * The Myrrh-bearing Women, as they sought Him with tears, said, lamenting: * Alas, O Savior of all, how is it that Thou deigned to dwell in a tomb? * How is it, that Thou who willingly dwelt there, hast been stolen? * How is it that Thou hast been moved? * What place hath hidden Thy life-bearing body? * O Master, as Thou hast promised, * do Thou appear unto us, and bring to an end our grieving and our tears. * But as they lamented an Angel cried unto them saying: * End your lament! Go and tell the Apostles that the Lord hath risen, ** granting the world remission and great mercy.

Verse 3: Holiness becometh Thy house, * O Lord, unto length of days.

Thou wast willingly crucified O Christ, * and by Thy burial Thou didst despoil death. * On the third day Thou didst rise as God in glory, ** granting the world everlasting life and Thy great mercy.

Glory ..., in Tone 4:

O ye assemblies of the Orthodox, * let us celebrate today with faith and piety * the annual memorial of the God-bearing Fathers * who, in the illustrious city of Nicaea, * came together from the whole inhabited world. * For with pious mind they refuted the godless dogma of the grievous Arius, * and by synodal decree banished him from the Orthodox Catholic Church. * And they instructed all to openly confess the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God, * Who existed before the ages. * This, in exactness and piety, did they set forth in the Symbol of Faith. * Wherefore, following their divine doctrines and believing with assurance, ** we worship, in One Godhead, the Father, Son and all-holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence.

Now & ever ..., in Tone 4:

O Lord, having fulfilled the mystery * that was hidden from before the ages and from all generations, * as Thou art good Thou didst come with Thy disciples to the Mount of Olives, * having together with Thyself her that gave birth * unto Thee, the Creator and Fashioner of all things; * for it was meet that she * who, as Thy Mother, suffered at Thy Passion more than all, * should also enjoy the surpassing joy * of the glorification of Thy flesh, O Master, * which we have attained by Thine Ascension to the Heavens, ** and we glorify Thy great mercy toward us.

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 for Sunday Tone 6:

The Angelic Hosts were before Thy tomb, * the guards became as dead men, * and Mary stood in the sepulcher looking for Thy pure Body. * Thou didst despoil Hades, for Thou wast not tempted by it. * Thou didst come and meet the Virgin to give life. ** O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory be to Thee.

Glory: Troparion of the Fathers, Tone 8:

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God, * Thou hast established our Holy Fathers as luminaries upon the earth * and through them hath instructed us all in the true faith. * O Most merciful One, glory be to Thee. (twice)

and Now & Ever: Troparion of the Ascension: Tone 4:

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, * and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; * and they were assured by the blessing * that Thou art the Son of God ** and Redeemer of the world.

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 have mercy (3 times)

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.