



The Office of GREAT VESPERS

on the Eve of Sundays and Feast Days, without a priest

✠ The SENIOR LAYMAN begins:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

The designated READER responds:

Amen.

✠ *If ninth hour was said, continue below: “Come let us worship..”*

✠ *If ninth hour was not said, the READER continues here:¹*

Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. 3x

¹✠ *St Thomas Sunday through Pascha’s Leavetaking: instead of “Glory to thee... O Heavenly King...” the READER says “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life” 3x, and continues “Holy God...”* ✠ *Ascension through the day before Pentecost: after “Amen” he says immediately “Holy God...”*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. 3x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The PEOPLE say:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, 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.

And the SENIOR LAYMAN:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

The READER continues:

Amen. Lord, have mercy. 12x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

Psalm 103

BLESS THE LORD, O my soul! O Lord my God, thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who coverest thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent. Who hast laid the beams of thy chambers on the waters, who makest the clouds thy chariot, who ridest on the wings of the wind, who makest the winds thy messengers, fire and flame thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From thy lofty abode thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate. That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man

goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to thee, to give them their food in due season. When thou givest to them, they gather it up; when thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good things. When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed; when thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever, may the Lord rejoice in his works. Who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. 3x

In place of the Great Litany, the READER says:

Lord, have mercy. 12x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Kathisma

We sing (or read) the following verses from Psalms 1, 2 and 3.²

℣. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.

After each verse, the refrain:

℞. Alleluia. 3x

℣. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. ℞.

℣. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice in him with trembling. ℞.

℣. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. ℞.

℣. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God. ℞.

℣. Salvation belongs to the Lord, thy blessing be upon thy people. ℞.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. ℞.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. ℞.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. 3x

*In place of the **Little Litany**, the READER says:*

Lord, have mercy. 3x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

² ℣. If a Feast of the Lord falls on Tuesday through Saturday, we do not sing the Kathisma (or the Little Litany), but immediately begin Lord, I Call.

LORD, I CALL

☞ *We sing in the tone of the first hymn (or read) the following:*

LORD, I call upon thee, hear me. * Hear me, O Lord! * Lord, I call upon thee, hear me; * receive the voice of my prayer * when I call upon thee. *** Hear me, O Lord!

LET my prayer arise * in thy sight as incense, * and let the lifting up of my hands * be an evening sacrifice. *** Hear me, O Lord!

The READER continues:

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips! Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity; and I will not join their chosen ones! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in mercy, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then my words will be heard. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn near hell. But my eyes are toward thee, O Lord; Lord, in thee I seek refuge. Do not take away my soul. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers! Let the sinners together fall into their own nets, let me alone pass through. I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord, I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, thou knowest my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me, no man cares for me. I cry to thee, O Lord; I say, thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low! Deliver

me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me!

☩ *We sing (or read) the LORD, I CALL hymns after each verse
(beginning after 10 on Sundays and Feasts of the Lord;
beginning after 8 on other Feasts).* ☩

10: V. Bring my soul out of prison, * that I may give thanks to thy name!

V. The righteous will surround me; * for thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

8: V. Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord; * Lord, hear my voice.

V. Let thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

V. If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? * But there is forgiveness with thee.

V. For thy Name's sake have I waited for thee, O Lord, my soul hath waited for thy word; * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

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

V. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plentiful redemption, and he will deliver Israel * from all his iniquities.

V. Praise the Lord, all nations! * Praise him, all peoples!

V. For his mercy is abundant towards us; * and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hymn at the Lighting of the Lamps

GLADSOME LIGHT of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed: O Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; for meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth glorify thee.

Prokimenon of the Day

Saturday Evening: sixth tone

The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty.

℣. 1. The Lord is robed with strength and hath girt himself.

℣. 2. For he hath made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.

℣. 3. Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, unto length of days.



Sunday Evening: eighth tone

Behold now, bless the Lord, * all ye servants of the Lord.

℣. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, even in the courts of the house of our God.

Monday Evening: fourth tone

The Lord will hear me * when I call upon him.

℣. When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me.

Tuesday Evening: first tone

Thy mercy, O Lord, * shall follow me all the days of my life.

℣. The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing: he maketh me to lie down in a green pasture.

Wednesday Evening: fifth tone

Save me, O God, by thy name, * and judge me by thy strength.

℣. Hear my prayer, O God: hearken unto the words of my mouth.

Thursday Evening: sixth tone

My help comes from the Lord * who made heaven and earth.

℣. I lifted up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence will my help come?

Friday Evening: seventh tone

Thou, O God, art my helper, * and thy mercy shall go before me.

℣. Rescue me from mine enemies, O God: and deliver me from them that rise up against me.



✠ *When appointed, scripture LESSONS are read now.* ✠

✠ *In place of the **Augmented Litany**, the READER says:*

Lord, have mercy. 12x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We sing (or read) the following prayers:

VOUCHSAFE, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy Name forever. Amen.

LET thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master, make me to understand thy commandments. Blessed art thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with thy precepts.

THY mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise; to thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In place of the Evening Litany, the READER says:

Lord, have mercy. 12x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

APOSTICHA

☞ *We sing (or read) the first APOSTICHA hymn. ☞*
The READER says the festal verses after each hymn.

☞ *On most Sundays, these verses are used:*

☞. The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty.

☞. For he hath made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.

℣. Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord,
unto length of days.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Ⳛ

Hymn of St Symeon

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 en-
lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

And the READER continues:

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. 3x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now
and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from
our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and
heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. 3x

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now
and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The PEOPLE say:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, 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.

And the SENIOR LAYMAN:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

☩ *We sing (or read) "Amen." and the TROPARIA for the day.* ☩

The Dismissal (*sung or read*)

Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages.

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee. ³

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. 3x

O Lord, bless.

The SENIOR LAYMAN says:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers,
O Lord Jesus Christ our God,
have mercy on us.

The PEOPLE respond:

Amen.

³☩ *For all the Sundays of Pascha, it is common to end Vespers as we end Divine Liturgy: we sing "Christ is risen from the dead..." 3x, then immediately the SENIOR LAYMAN says, "Through the prayers..." and proclaims "Christ is risen" 3x, after which we again sing "Christ is risen from the dead..." 3x, and, in Tone 8: "And unto us he has given eternal life. * Let us worship his resurrection on the third day."*