

# The Office of Great Vespers

(for Sundays and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> class Feasts)

*To pray Great Vespers, this booklet must be accompanied by other Liturgical books, as referenced throughout the rubrics that follow. Namely, they are the Menaion (12 volumes), the Lenten Triodion (4 volumes), the Pentacostarion (3 volumes), the Octoechos (4 volumes) and optionally, the Horologion (for supplemental music settings). All are published by Sophia Press and are available for purchase at <https://store.melkite.org>.*

## DOOR PRAYERS AND VESTING

*When the time of Vespers has come, the priest and the deacon, at the priest's right, come together before the Holy Doors, both vested in exorassa. They make three metanies toward the East, each time saying:*

O God, be propitious to me a sinner and have mercy on me.

*They go into the sanctuary, the priest entering through the North door and the deacon through the South door, saying in a low voice:*

I shall enter in your dwelling place; before your Holy Temple  
I shall bow in fear of You.

*They make three metanies before the holy table. The priest kisses the holy Gospel book and the holy table, while the deacon kisses only the holy table. The priest takes the epitachelion, blesses and kisses the cross and puts it on, saying:*

**P:** Blessed is God ☩ who pours out grace upon His priests: as oil upon the head, which ran down unto the beard, the beard of Aaron, even to the hem of his garment, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The deacon, holding his sticharion and orarion on the palm of his right hand, bows his head before the priest and says:*

**D:** A blessing, Father, upon the sticharion and orarion.

*And the priest blesses them saying:*

**P:** Blessed is our God ☩ at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**D:** Amen.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

**P:** Blessed ✠ is our God at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

*(During the Paschal Season the following prayers are replaced by “Christ is Risen...” 3 times, then go directly to “Holy God...”)*

**P:** Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

**H**eavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

**All:** Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One!  
Have mercy on us! *(three times)*

~ Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

~ now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

~ All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.

~ Lord, have mercy! *(three times)*

~ Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

~ now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

~ 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**P:** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

- ~ Lord, have mercy! (*twelve times*)
- ~ Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
- ~ now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The ecclesiarch concludes:*

Come, let us worship God our King, and bow down before Him! (*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ God, our King, and bow down before Him! (*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and our God and bow down before Him! (*metany*)

*The reader or ecclesiarch begins Psalm 103. Meanwhile, the priest uncovers his head, leaves the holy place through the North door and, standing before the icon of Christ, quietly recites the Prayers of Light (text on page 43). When finished the priest returns to the holy place via the South door.*

### Psalm 103

- B**less the Lord, O my soul!  
You are very great, O Lord, my God!  
-Clothed in pomp and brilliance,  
arrayed with light as with a cloak.
- Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,  
covering Your lofty halls with water.
- You make the clouds Your conveyance,  
You surge on the wings of the wind.
- You make spirits Your messengers  
and flaming fires Your attendants.
- You settle the earth on its firm foundation;  
it shall stand unmoved from age to age.
- The abyss covers it like a garment;  
waters stand over the mountains.
- At Your rebuke, they will take to flight,  
at the peal of Your thunder they will fear.

- They hurdle the hills and run down the dales  
to the place You have chosen for them.
- You have set up a boundary not to be passed:  
they shall never return to cover the earth.
  
- Down in the gullies, You make springs to rise:  
waters shall go down between the mountains.
- They shall give drink to the beasts of the field;  
wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.
  
- The birds of the sky will abide by them:  
from among the rocks they will raise their song.
- From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains;  
the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.
  
- You make green pastures for the cattle  
and food-plants for the service of man,
- So that bread may be brought forth from the earth  
and wine that gladdens the heart of man.
  
- So that oil may put a gleam upon his face  
and that bread may strengthen the heart of man.
- The trees of the plains will be satisfied,  
the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.
  
- The sparrows will build their nests in them  
and the herons will call them their home.
- To the deer belong high mountains,  
to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.
  
- You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows the time of its setting.
- You establish darkness and it is night  
wherein the forest creatures prowl around.

- Young lions roar for their prey  
and call out to God for their meat.
- As the sun rises, they will come together  
and lay themselves down in their dens.
  
- Man will go out to his labor  
and work until eventide.
- How great are Your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom You have wrought them all:  
the earth is filled with Your creatures.
  
- Even the wide and open sea itself:  
within it there are countless creeping things,  
living beings small and large.
- Upon it there are ships a-sailing  
and that great beast You made to have fun.
  
- All of them look up to You  
to give them their food in due time.
- You provide and they gather up;  
You open Your hand and they are full.
  
- You hide Your face and they cringe,  
You suspend their breath and they die  
and return to their dust.
- You send forth Your breath and they live:  
You renew the face of the earth!
  
- May the Lord's glory endure for ever,  
may the Lord rejoice in His works.
- He looks upon the earth and makes it quake,  
He touches the mountains and they smoke.
  
- I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,  
I will praise my God as long as I last.
- Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him  
and I will rejoice in the Lord.

- May the sinners vanish from the earth  
and may the wicked be no more.
- Bless the Lord, O my soul!

*And again:*

- The sun knows the time of its setting.  
You establish darkness and it is night.
- How great are Your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom You have wrought them all.

-Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

- Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory ✠ to You, O God! *(metany)*
- Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory ✠ to You, O God! *(metany)*
- Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory ✠ to You, O God! *(metany)*  
O our Hope, glory to You!

*The deacon obtains the priest's blessing, kisses his hand and goes out through the North door. He takes his usual place and makes a reverence. Holding the orarion with three fingers of his right hand, he begins the Litany of Peace.*

**D:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For peace from on high and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For peace in the whole world, the well-being of the holy Churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For this holy place and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For our (Arch)bishop *N.*, the reverend priests, the deacons in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For our public servants, for the government and the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For this city, for every city and country place and the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For the travelers by sea, air and land, for the sick, the suffering, for the captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Remembering our all-holy, spotless, most highly blessed and glorious Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ God.

**All:** To You, O Lord.

**P:** For all glory, honor and worship are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

KATHISMA

*The Kathisma Psalms are, in general, no longer done. If, however, they are done then they are recited as follows:*

*According to Coutourier:*

*On 1st Class Feasts - no psalms*

*On Saturdays, and on 2nd & 3rd class feasts - the 1st Stasis of Kathisma 1 (Psalms 1, 2 and 3)*

*If the Kathisma psalms are done they are followed by a little litany:*

**D:** Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Remembering our all-holy, spotless, most highly blessed and glorious lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ God.

**All:** To You, O Lord.

**P:** For Yours is the dominion and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

*After the Ekphonesis, while Psalm 140 is being chanted, the deacon prepares the incense. Receiving the blessing of the priest he begins the incensation at "Let my prayer rise like incense." He censens the holy table, the iconostasis and the entire church, returning to the holy place.*



LAMP-LIGHTING PSALMS

*All begin chanting Psalm 140 - "O Lord, to You I call" in the tone of the first sticheron for the day from the Liturgical books (music on pages 27ff).*

Psalm 140

**L**ORD, to You I call: hasten to me; hasten to me, O Lord.  
O Lord, to You I call: hasten to me; hearken to the voice of my prayer when I call upon You: hasten to me, O Lord. Let my prayer rise like incense before You, the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice; hasten to me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth  
and a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,  
from finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with men who work iniquity  
let me not partake of what they choose.

May a just man chasten me with justice and reprove me;  
may the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.  
Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

My words will be heard for they were sweet.  
As a lump of clay broken on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up;  
in You have I hoped: let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set up for me  
and from the stumbling blocks of wicked men.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets  
while I remain alone until I can escape.

Psalm 141

With my voice I cried out to the Lord,  
with my voice, I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplication,  
before Him I declare my distress.

When my breath was escaping me,  
then You knew my paths.

On the road upon which I was walking  
they set up snares for me.

I looked to my right and observed:  
there was no one friendly to me.

Even flight was denied me;  
there was no one to take care of my life.

I cried out to You, O Lord, and said:  
“You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.”

Listen to my supplication  
for I am laid very low.

Deliver me from my oppressors  
for they have overwhelmed me.

Release my soul from its prison  
that I may praise Your Name.

*The 10<sup>th</sup> Sticheron, if there is one, is inserted at this point. The Stichera can be found in the Menaion or other Liturgical books for the celebration of the day.*

The just shall gather around me  
until You give me my reward.

*The 9<sup>th</sup> Sticheron, if there is one, is inserted at this point.*

Psalm 129

*The priest puts on the phelonion to prepare for the Entrance.*

Out of the depths I cried out to You, Lord:  
O Lord, listen to my voice.

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Sticheron, if there is one, is inserted at this point.*

Let Your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplication.

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Sticheron, if there is one, is inserted at this point.*

If You retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who will be left?  
With You there is forgiveness.

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

For Your Name's sake, O Lord, I have waited for You;  
my soul has waited for Your word,  
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

From the watch of dawn until the night,  
from the watch of dawn  
let Israel long for the Lord.

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

For with the Lord there is mercy  
and with Him abundant redemption.  
And it is He who will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

Praise the Lord, all you nations,  
exalt Him, all you peoples.

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

For mighty is His love for us,  
and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Sticheron is inserted at this point, followed by the Minor Doxology in the proper tone (music on pages 35ff).*

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

*The Doxastikon, if there is one, is inserted at this point.*

now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The Theotokion is inserted at this point.*

*Entrance with the censer, and if there are Gospel readings, the Gospel Book. The priest quietly prays the Prayer of the Entrance.*

**D:** *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**P:** *At nightfall, dawn and noon, we sing to You, we bless You, we give thanks to You and we beseech You, O Master of All, O Lord and Lover of Mankind: guide our prayers aright as an offering of incense before You; let not our hearts be led to words or thoughts of wickedness, but save us from all those who pursue our souls. For all glory, honor and worship are your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

*The priest and deacon make the entrance. The deacon carries the incense. They stop before the holy doors. The deacon asks the blessing of the priest:*

**D:** *Bless the holy entering, Father.*

**P:** *Blessed in the entrance ✠ into Your holy places at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

**D:** *Amen.*

*After the chanting of the Theotokion, the deacon intones:*

**D:** *Wisdom! Let us stand!*

HYMN OF THE EVENING

*The priest or ecclesiarch intones the first words of the Hymn of Athenogenes the Martyr, which is continued by all (music on page 39):*

**Q** Joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father immortal: heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ! Since we have come to the setting of the sun and have seen the evening light, we praise God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is proper for You to be praised at all times by fitting melodies. O Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies You!

*While the hymn is being chanted, the deacon begins to incense from his place. At "It is proper" he enters the holy place followed by the priest and completes the incensation. From the holy doors he intones:*

**D:** The Prokimenon of Vespers!

*The reader chants the Prokimenon of the day or feast. On the eve of the major feasts of our Lord and on Cheese Fare Sunday, in the evening of every day of Easter Week and of the two Saturdays of the Dead, the Great Prokimenena are chanted. All answer in the customary manner. On Feast Days during the week, see page 40. On Sundays:*

SATURDAY EVENING

Tone 2



The Lord is King in splen-dor robed.

- v. The Lord is robed, He is girt about with might.
- v. For He has settled the earth: it shall stand unmoved.



The Lord is King in splen-dor robed.

*On 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Feasts:*

*After the Prokimenon, if there are selections to be read from the Old Testament the deacon proclaims:*

**D:** Wisdom!

**R:** A reading from the Book (or Prophecy) of...

**D:** Let us be attentive!

*The reader turns to the congregation and reads the proper text. The Holy Doors are closed. The deacon announces each of the three readings in the same way.*

*If there are readings from the New Testament, the deacon says first Let us be attentive, then, Wisdom! and again, Let us be attentive! doing the same for each of the three readings. The Holy Doors remain open.*

ECUMENIC PRAYER

**D:** Let us all say, with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us all say:

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Lord Almighty, God of our Fathers, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Have mercy on us, O God, in Your great mercy: we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

**D:** Again, we pray for our Father and (Arch)bishop *N.*, and for his reverend clergy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

**D:** Again we pray for our brothers the priests, the deacons, the monks the nuns, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**All:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

**D:** Again, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness and remission of sins for the servants of God who live in this city.

**All:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

**D:** Again, we pray for the blessed and ever to be remembered founders of this holy church and for our orthodox fathers and brethren who have gone before us and who here or elsewhere lie asleep in the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

**D:** Again, we pray for those who bear offerings, those who do good works in this holy and most venerable church, those who toil, those who sing and all the people here present who await from You great and abundant mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

**P:** For You are merciful, O God, and You love mankind, and we render glory to You, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

*The priest or ecclesiarch says aloud:*

~ Deign, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

~ Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers! Praised and glorified is Your name for ever. Amen.

~ O Lord, let Your mercy rest upon us, for we have placed our trust in You.

~ Blessed ✠ are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes! (*metany*)

~ Blessed ✠ are You, O Master: grant that I may understand Your statutes! (*metany*)

~ Blessed ✠ are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your statutes! (*metany*)

~ Everlasting is Your love, O Lord: turn not away from the work of Your hands.

~ Indeed, praise, adoration and glory are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

AITESIS

**D:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**D:** That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us ask the Lord.

**All:** Grant this, O Lord.

**D:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

**All:** Grant this, O Lord.

**D:** For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

**All:** Grant this, O Lord.

**D:** For what is good and profitable to our souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask the Lord.

**All:** Grant this, O Lord.

**D:** That the rest of our life may be spent in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

**All:** Grant this, O Lord.

**D:** That the end of our life may be Christian, painless, unashamed and peaceful, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment-seat of Christ, let us ask.

**All:** Grant this, O Lord.



**D:** Remembering our all-holy, spotless, most highly blessed and glorious Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ God.

**All:** To You, O Lord.

**P:** For You are merciful, O God, and You love mankind, and to You we render glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

**P:** Peace ✠ to all!

**All:** And to your spirit.

**D:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**All:** To You, O Lord!

**P:** *O Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look down on Your servants and on Your inheritance. For Your servants have bowed down their heads and bent their necks to You, the Judge both awesome and loving. They do not await the help that is from man, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams. May the might of Your Kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

**All:** Amen.

*If there is a Lete:*

*While the stichera of the lete are being chanted, the priest blesses the incense presented by the deacon. The deacon incenses the icon being held by the priest as they walk in procession around the altar, going out of the sanctuary and around the Church to the place where the icon will be enthroned. The priest deposits the icon on its stand, censes it and kisses it. When the chanting of the stichera is completed, the deacon says aloud:*

**D:** O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Look upon Your world with mercy and compassion. Raise to glory the Orthodox Christians and shower upon us Your abundant mercies, through the intercession of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the honorable and incorporeal Powers of Heaven; of the honorable and illustrious prophet, the Forerunner John the Baptist; of the holy and glorious Apostles worthy of all praise; of our Fathers among the Saints and great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, the patriarchs of Alexandria; of our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; of our holy and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Ann; [of Saint *N.*, patron of this holy church; of Saint *N.*, whose memory we celebrate today,] and of all the saints, we beseech You, O most merciful Lord, listen to the prayers that we sinners offer You, and have mercy on us.

**All:** Lord, have mercy! (*three times*)

**D:** Again we pray to You for our God-loving (Arch)bishop *N.* and all our brethren in Christ; for every Christian soul in tribulation and affliction and in need of the mercy and help of God; for the protection of this holy place and all those who dwell in it; for the peace and the tranquility of the world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God; for salvation and help to our fathers and brothers who labor and serve with zeal and with fear of God; for the forsaken, the exiled and the travelers, and for the healing of those afflicted by

sickness; for the repose of the departed souls of blessed memory, and for the forgiveness of the sins of our fathers and brothers the Orthodox in faith, who have gone before us and are resting here and in every other place; for the captives and their release, and for those who are in the armed forces; and for all those who do now serve, and all those who have ever served in this holy place, let us say for them all:

**All:** Lord, have mercy! *(three times)*

**D:** Again we pray to You for our civil authorities and the armed forces.

**All:** Lord, have mercy! *(three times)*

*If there is Artoclasia, the deacon adds this supplication:*

**D:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of the servants of God who are offering these oblations and celebrating this Feast, for the well-being of their sick ones and for the repose of the souls of all the members of their families.

**All:** Lord, have mercy! *(three times)*

**D:** Again we pray that this holy place and every city and country place may be spared from famine and pestilence, earthquake and flood, fire and sword, foreign invasion and civil war: that our loving and good God may be gentle, merciful and placable, and that He may avert from us all threatening danger and save us from His just anger that hangs over us, and that He may have mercy on us.

**All:** Lord, have mercy! *(three times)*

**D:** Again we pray that the Lord God will hearken to the voice of supplication of us sinners, and that He may have mercy on us.

**All:** Lord, have mercy! (*three times*)

**P:** Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of all those who live at the far ends of the world and of those far out at sea; be kind to us, O Master forgive us our sins and have mercy on us, for You are the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind, and we render glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

**P:** Peace ☩ to all.

**All:** And to your spirit!

**D:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**All:** To You, O Lord

**P:** O Master Most Merciful, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercession of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of the honorable and incorporeal Powers of Heaven; of the honorable and illustrious prophet, the Forerunner John the Baptist; of the holy and glorious Apostles worthy of all praise; of our Fathers among the Saints and great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, the patriarchs of Alexandria; of our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; of our holy and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Ann; [of Saint *N.*, patron of this holy church; of Saint *N.*, whose memory we celebrate today,] and of all the saints, we beseech You, O most merciful Lord: make our supplications acceptable to You, grant the remission of our sins;

protect us beneath the shelter of Your wings; drive away from us all enemies and foes; preserve our lives in peace. O Lord, have mercy on us and upon Your world, and save our souls, for You are merciful, O God, and You love mankind.

**All:** Amen.

*The priest and deacon go into the holy place.*

### APOSTICHA

*The cantors intone the appropriate Aposticha and verses.*

*On Feastdays the Aposticha will come from the Menaion. Otherwise:*

### SATURDAY EVENING

*A verse from the Octoechos or other Liturgical books is added here.*

1. The Lord has reigned and He is clothed in splendor. The Lord is robed, He is girt about with might.

*A verse from the Octoechos or other Liturgical books is added here.*

2. For He has settled the earth; it shall remain unmoved.

*A verse from the Octoechos or other Liturgical books is added here.*

3. Righteousness is fitting for Your house, O Lord, throughout eternity.

*A verse from the Octoechos or other Liturgical books is added here.*

4. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.. Amen.

*The Theotokion from the Octoechos or other Liturgical books is added here.*

HYMN OF SIMEON THE JUST

*The reader or ecclesiarch says aloud:*

**F**ow You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word in peace: because my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of Your people, Israel.

**All:** Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One!  
Have mercy on us! (*three times*)

~ Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

~ now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

~ All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

~ Lord, have mercy! (*three times*)

~ Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

~ now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

~ 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**P:** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

TROPARIA

*The Troparion of the Resurrection or the Troparion of the Saint or feast of the day is chanted. If there are multiple Troparia, "Glory to the Father..." and "Now and forever..." are intercalated between them as appropriate. On Sundays we conclude with the Resurrectional Theotokion in the tone of the preceding Troparion. Troparia for Sundays and Feasts can be found at the end of the Horologion. The Resurrectional Theotokia can be found at the end of the Horologion and Menaion or the beginning of the Octoechos.*

*If there is Artoclasia, the service ends as follows:*

*At the chanting of the troparia, the priest and deacon exit the Holy Place via the North door. The deacon bears a lighted candle and stands opposite the priest at the analogion. After blessing the incense the priest incenses on each side of the table.*

**D:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

*The priest takes one of the loaves in his hands, makes the sign of the cross over it, and says aloud:*

**P:** O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness, and thus sustained five thousand men (*he breaks the loaf on four sides*), bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil and multiply them in this holy city and for Your whole world, and sanctify the faithful who partake of them: for You are the One who bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we render glory to You and to Your Eternal Father and to Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, now and forever. (*three times*)

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry, but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

**D:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**P:** May the blessing ✠ of the Lord and His mercy be upon you through His grace and love for mankind, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**All:** Amen.

**P:** Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

**All:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

**P:** May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of His all-pure Mother, of His glorious Apostles who are worthy of all praise, *(page 26)* ..., may this same Christ have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

**All:** Amen.

**P:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

*All come forward to be anointed and receive the blessed bread.*

**D:** Wisdom!

**All:** A blessing!

*The priest turns to the icon of Christ and, making the sign of the Cross, says:*

**P:** Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*The ecclesiarch answers:*

Amen. Make firm, O Christ God, the holy Orthodox Faith in this holy church for ever and ever. Amen.



*The priest turns toward the icon of the Theotokos and, making the sign of the Cross, says:*

**P:** O all-holy Theotokos, save us!

*The second in rank answers:*

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without stain bore God the Word: you are truly Theotokos, you do we exalt!

**P:** Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

**All:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.



APOLYSIS

**P:** May Christ our true God, ...

*on Sun.:* who is risen from the dead, ...

*On feast days, the proper for the feast is inserted here.*

have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of His spotless and all-pure Mother, ...

*on Wed/Fri.:* and through the power of the glorious and life-giving cross ...

of His glorious Apostles who are worthy of all praise, ...

*on Mon.:* and through the intercession of the heavenly, honorable and bodiless powers of Heaven ...

*on Tues.:* and through the intercession of the glorious prophet the Forerunner, John the Baptist ...

*on Thurs.:* and of our Father among the saints, Nicholas the wonderworker Archbishop of Myra in Lycia ...

*on Sat.:* and through the intercession of the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs, and of our God bearing Fathers ...

and through the intercession of St. *N.*, patron of this holy church

and of St. *N.*, whose memory we celebrate today, and of the holy and just ancestors of Christ God, Joachim and Ann, and of all the saints, may this same Christ have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

**All:** Amen.

**P:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

*All come forward to receive the priest's blessing, the deacon approaching after any other priests who may be present.*





GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

Tone 3



O Lord, to You I call: has - ten to me; has-ten to



me, O Lord. O Lord, to You I call:



has - ten to me; hear-ken to the voice of my prayer



when I call up-on You: has - ten to me, O Lord.



Let my prayer rise like in-cense be - fore You,



the lif-ting up of my hands like the ev'-ning sac-ri-fice;



has - ten to me, O Lord.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

*Tone 4*



O Lord, to You I call: has - ten to me; has - ten to me,



O Lord. O Lord, to You I call: has-ten to me; hear-ken



to the voice of my prayer when I call up-on You:



has-ten to me, O Lord. Let my prayer rise like in-



- cense be-fore You, the lif-ting up of my hands like the



ev'-ning sac-ri - fice; has - ten to me, O Lord.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

Tone 5



O Lord, to You I call: has - ten to me; has-ten to



me, O Lord. O Lord, to You I call:



has - ten to me; hear-ken to the voice of my prayer



when I call up - on You: has - ten to



me, O Lord. Let my prayer rise like



in-cense be-fore You, the lif-ting up of my hands



like the ev'-ning sac - ri - fice; has - ten to



me, O Lord.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

Tone 6



Lord, to You I call: has - ten to me; has-



- ten to me, O Lord. O Lord, to You I call:



has - ten to me; hear - ken to the voice of my prayer



when I call up - on You: has - ten to me, O



Lord. Let my prayer rise like in - cense be - fore You,



the lif - ting up of my hands like the ev - ning sac - ri - fice;



has - ten to me, O Lord.



GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

Tone 7



O Lord, to You I call: has - ten to me; has - ten to



me, O Lord. O Lord, to You I call: has - ten to



me; hear-ken to the voice of my prayer when I call



up - on You: has - ten to me, O Lord.



Let my prayer rise like in - cense be-fore You, the



lif-ting up of my hands like the ev'-ning sac-ri-fice;



has - ten to me, O Lord.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

*Tone 8*



O Lord, to You I call: has - ten to me; has-



- ten to me, O Lord. O Lord, to You I call: has-



- ten to me; hear-ken to the voice of my prayer when I



call up-on You: has - ten to me, O Lord.



Let my prayer rise like in-cense be-fore You, the



lif-ting up of my hands like the ev'-ning sac-ri-fice;



has-ten to me, O Lord.

Doxologia

*Tone 1*

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-  
 - ly Spi - rit now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -  
 - ver, a - men.

The musical notation for Tone 1 is written on three staves in a single system. The first staff contains the melody for 'Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-'. The second staff continues with '- ly Spi - rit now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -'. The third staff concludes with '- ver, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

*Tone 2*

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-  
 - ly Spi - rit now and al - ways and for - e -  
 - ver and e - ver, a - men.

The musical notation for Tone 2 is written on three staves in a single system. The first staff contains the melody for 'Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-'. The second staff continues with '- ly Spi - rit now and al - ways and for - e -'. The third staff concludes with '- ver and e - ver, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

*Tone 3*



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-



- ly Spi-rit now and al-ways and for-e - ver and e-



- ver, a - men.

*Tone 4*



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-



- ly Spi-rit now and al-ways and for-e - ver and e-



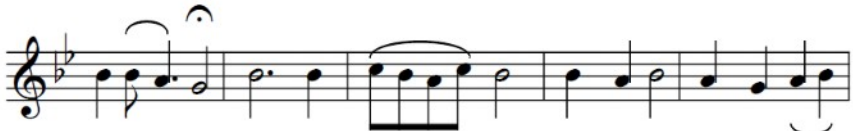
- ver, a-men.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

*Tone 5*



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho



- ly Spi - rit now and al - ways and for - e - ver and e -



- ver, a-men.

*Tone 6*



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son



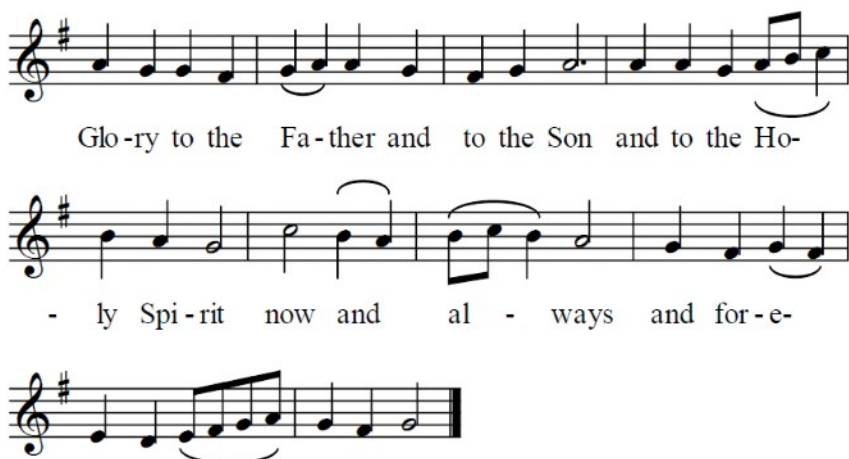
and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit now and al - ways



and for - e - ver and e - ver, a-men.

GREAT VESPERS ON SUNDAYS AND FEASTS

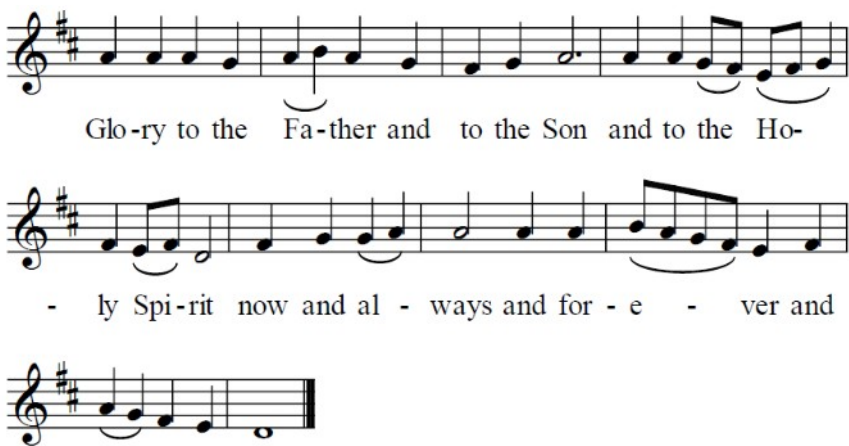
*Tone 7*



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-  
- ly Spi-rit now and al - ways and for-e-  
- ver and e - ver, a-men.

The musical notation for Tone 7 consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for "Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-". The second staff continues with "- ly Spi-rit now and al - ways and for-e-". The third staff concludes with "- ver and e - ver, a-men." and ends with a double bar line.

*Tone 8*



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-  
- ly Spi-rit now and al - ways and for - e - ver and  
e - ver, a - men.

The musical notation for Tone 8 consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for "Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-". The second staff continues with "- ly Spi-rit now and al - ways and for - e - ver and". The third staff concludes with "e - ver, a - men." and ends with a double bar line.

The Hymn of Athenogenes the Martyr



O Joy-ful Light of the ho-ly glo - ry of the Fa-



- ther Im-mor - tal: hea - ven-ly, ho-ly, bles-sed Je-sus



Christ! Since we have come to the set-ting of the sun



and have seen the eve-ning light, we praise



God, the Fa-ther, the Son and the Ho - ly Spi-rit. It is



pro-per for You to be praised at all times by fit-ting




me - lo - dies. O Son of God, Gi - ver of life,



there-fore the world glo-ri - fies You!

Weekday Prokimena

SUNDAY EVENING



Come, bless the Lord, all you ser-vants of the Lord.

(2)

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. A repeat sign with a fermata is at the end, with a '(2)' above it.


- You who stand in the house of the Lord and in the courts of the house of God!



Come, bless the Lord, all you ser-vants  
of the Lord.

Detailed description: Two staves of music. The first staff continues the melody from the previous block. The second staff contains the final phrase of the Prokimena. The lyrics are written below the staves.

MONDAY EVENING

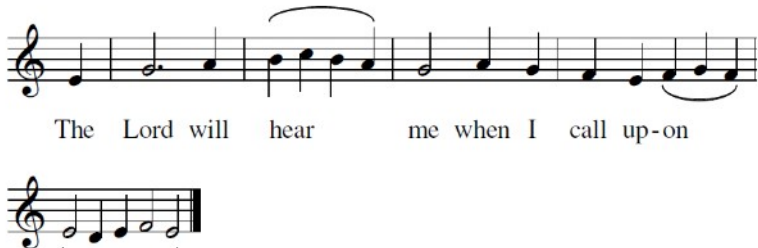


The Lord will hear me when I call up-on Him.

(2)

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. A repeat sign with a fermata is at the end, with a '(2)' above it.

- You have heard my supplication when I cried out to You, O Lord of my righteousness!



The Lord will hear me when I call up-on  
Him.

Detailed description: Two staves of music. The first staff continues the melody from the previous block. The second staff contains the final phrase of the Prokimena. The lyrics are written below the staves.



TUESDAY EVENING



Your mer-cy, O Lord, fol-lows me all the days of my



life.

- The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.



Your mer-cy, O Lord, fol-lows me all the days of my



life.

WEDNESDAY EVENING



O God, by Your name save me, and by Your might de-



- fend my cause.

- Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come to You.



O God, by Your name save me, and by Your might de-



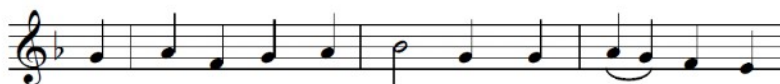
- fend my cause.

THURSDAY EVENING



My help is from the Lord who made Hea-ven and earth.

- I will lift up my eyes from the hills whence my help comes forth



My help is from the Lord who made Hea - ven and



earth.

FRIDAY EVENING



O God, You are my pro-tec - tor; O God, Your



mer-cy goes be-fore me.

- O God, deliver me from my foe, save me from those who oppose me.



O God, You are my pro-tec - tor; O God, Your



mer-cy goes be - fore me.

## Prayers of Light

### *First prayer:*

O Lord, compassionate and loving, long-suffering and greatly merciful, listen to our prayer and give heed to the voice of our supplication. Make with us a favorable covenant, guide us along your ways that we may live in your truth, gladden our hearts that we may fear your holy name: for You are great and You perform wondrous deeds. You are the only God and none among the gods is like You, O Lord. You are greatly merciful and able in your power to assist, support and save all those who place their hope in your holy name. For all glory, honor and adoration, are your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### *Second prayer:*

O Lord, in your indignation rebuke us not, chastise us not in your wrath, but deal with us according to your loving kindness, O Physician and Healer of our souls! Guide us to the harbor of your will, enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know your truth, and grant that the remainder of this day and all the time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, through the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the saints. For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### *Third prayer:*

O Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy name, and put us not to shame for having placed our hope in your mercy, but graciously grant us, O Lord, all the means of salvation; make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart, and to accomplish your will in all things. For You are the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Fourth prayer:*

O Lord who are celebrated by the holy Powers in never silenced hymns and unceasing doxologies: fill our mouths with your praise, that we may exalt your holy name; give us part and lot with all those who fear You in truth and who keep your commandments--through the intercession of the holy Mother of God and of all your saints. For all glory, honor and adoration are your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Fifth prayer:*

O Lord, Lord, who hold all things together in your spotless hands, who are long-suffering towards us all, and who grieve at our wickedness: be mindful of your compassion and mercy and look down upon us in your bounty. Grant us to escape for the remainder of this day from the manifold deceits of the evil one and keep our life free from all assaults through the grace of your All-Holy Spirit. Through the mercies and love for mankind of your only begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Sixth prayer:*

O great and wonderful God who pursue all things with ineffable love and universal providence, who govern all things, who provided us with the bounties of this world and assured us through your kindness of obtaining: the promised kingdom; O Lord who through all the blessings already received this day have kept us away from evil: grant that we may spend its remaining hours without blame before your holy glory, and that we may sing your praise, O You the only Gracious One and the Lover of mankind. For You are our God. and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Seventh prayer:*

O great God, O God most high who alone are the source of immortality, who dwell in light beyond reach and who created all things-in wisdom, dividing light from darkness, setting up the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to rule the night; who have deemed us poor sinners worthy to reach this hour and to come into your presence with our thanks and to offer you our evening praise, O Lord and Lover of Mankind: let our prayers go up to You like incense and accept them as a sweet fragrance; grant that this evening and the coming night may be spent in peace; clothe us with an armor of light; save us from nightly fear and from all things that lurk in darkness, and grant that the sleep You have given us to refresh us from our wickedness may be free from all satanic dreams and imaginings. Yes, verily, O Lord, Giver of all good things, may we remember your name throughout the night, and, enlightened by the practice of your commandments, may we rise in gladness of soul and supplications for our sins and those of your people. Look down upon them with mercy through the intercession of the Mother of God. For You are the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.