

THE ORDER OF VESPERS WITHOUT A PRIEST
READER'S VESPERS

Usual Beginning

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

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(*thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon 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, now and ever, and unto 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Lord have mercy. (12)

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 become exceeding great; with confession and with majesty art thou clothed. Who dost robe thyself with light as with a garment; who spreadest out the heaven like a curtain. Who covereth with waters its upper rooms; who doth fix the clouds for his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind. Who maketh his angels spirits, and his servers a flaming fire. Who foundeth the earth upon its firmness; it shall not be bowed down for ever and ever. The abyss, like a garment, is its robe; upon the mountains shall stand the waters. At thy rebuke they shall flee; at the voice of thy thunder, they shall be afraid. The mountains go up, and the plains go down to the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound which they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. Who sendeth forth fountains into the valleys; among the mountains shalt the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses shall await in their thirst. Over them shall the birds of the heavens have their habitation; from the midst of the rocks shall they give forth their voices. Thou waterest the mountains from thy upper rooms; with the fruit of thy works is the earth sated, making grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, that thou mayest bring forth bread out of the earth, and wine that gladdeneth the heart of man; to make his face cheerful with oil; and bread that strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be sated, the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted. There the sparrows shall make their nest. The dwelling of the heron precedeth them. The high mountains are for the hart; the rocks

a refuge for the conies. He made the moon for seasons; the sun hath known its setting. Thou didst set the darkness, and it became night; in it shall run all the beasts of the forest, the young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking of God their meat. The sun hath arisen, and they have gathered together; and in their dens shalt thou lay them down. Man shall go forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. How great are thy works become O Lord; in wisdom hast thou made them all. The earth is full of thy creation. This is the sea, great and wide; there are creeping things without number, animals both small and great. There the ships go across; and that serpent which thou hast formed to play in it. All wait upon thee to give them their food in due season. When thou givest it them, they shall gather it; when thou openest thine hand, all things shall be filled with goodness. When thou turnest away thy face, they shall be troubled; thou takest away their spirit, they shall vanish and to their dust shall they return. Thou sendest forth thy spirit and they shall be created; and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in his works. Who looketh down upon the earth, and maketh it to tremble; who touchest the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord in my life; I will sing psalms unto my God as long as I shall be. Let my conversation please him; and I shall be glad in the Lord. Let sinners vanish from the earth, and transgressors, so that they shall be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun hath known its setting. Thou didst set the darkness, and it became night. How great are thy works become O Lord; 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. (*thrice*)

After the Psalm (*In Place of the Great Litany*)

Lord, have mercy (40).

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

Kathisma (*Reading from Psalter*)

And then the kathisma from the Psalter, usually thus (outside of Great Lent): Saturday, 1st Kathisma (Psalms 1-8,); Sunday, no Kathisma; Monday, 6th Kathisma (Psalms 37-45); Tuesday, 9th Kathisma (Psalms 64-69); Wednesday, 12th Kathisma (Psalms 85-90); Thursday, 15th Kathisma (Psalms 105-108); Friday, 18th Kathisma (Psalms 119-133).

After the kathisma, we say:

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 (3).

(In Place of the Little Litany)

Lord, have mercy (3).

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

And immediately thereafter, "Lord, I have cried..." during which a censuring may be made with a hand censer by the senior person present..

Lord, I Have Cried: Psalms 140, 141, 129, 116

Choir (in tone of first sticheron):

Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hear me; / Hear me, O Lord. /
 Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hear me; / attend to the voice of
 my prayer, / when I cry unto Thee; // Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be directed / as incense before Thee, / the
 lifting up of my hands / as an evening sacrifice. // Hear me,
 O Lord.

Reader:

Set a watch, O Lord upon my mouth, and a gate of
 enclosure about my lips. Incline not my heart to words of evil,
 to contrive excuses for sins, with men that work iniquity, and I
 shall not join with their elect. The righteous man shall correct
 me in mercy and reproach me, but the oil of the sinner shall
 not anoint mine head. For my prayer is still against their
 pleasure; their judges are swallowed up among the stones.
 They shall hear my words that have prevailed. As clods of
 earth are broken upon the earth, so our bones are scattered on
 the brink of hell. To thee, O Lord, Lord, I turn mine eyes, in
 thee I hope take not away my soul. Keep me from the snare
 which they have laid for me, and from the pitfalls of the
 workers of iniquity. Let sinners fall into their own net, whilst I
 alone shall pass. With my voice I have cried unto the Lord,
 with my voice I have prayed to the Lord. I pour forth my
 prayer before him, and before him I declare my sorrow. When
 my spirit departed from me thou knewest all my paths. In this
 way where I was walking, they have hid a snare for me. I
 looked to the right and I saw, and there is none that knew me.
 A way of escape faileth me, and there is none that seeketh my
 soul. I have cried unto thee, O Lord, and said, thou art my

hope, my portion in the land of the living. Attend to my prayer for I am exceedingly humbled. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are become stronger than I.

(On 10) Lead forth my soul from prison, that I may confess thy name;

The choir begins singing the appointed stichera (verses) from the Octoechos, (or Triodion, or Pentcostarion), and the Menaion, either here on 10, on 8, on 6, or on 4.

The righteous await me, till thou shalt reward me.

Choir: Sticheron

(On 8) Out of the depths have I cried unto thee; O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Choir: Sticheron

Let thine ears give heed to the voice of my prayer

Choir: Sticheron

(On 6) If thou observest transgressions, Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with thee is propitiation.

Choir: Sticheron

For thy name's sake, I have waited upon thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon thy word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Choir: Sticheron

(On 4) From the morning watch even to the night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

Choir: Sticheron

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgression.

Choir: Sticheron

O praise the Lord all ye nations, praise him, all ye people.

Choir: Sticheron

For his mercy hath been confirmed upon us and the truth of the Lord remaineth for ever.

Choir: Sticheron

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

The Royal Doors are opened and the lighting increased for the Entrance, if it be Great Vespers. The choir sings the doxasticon, if there be one.

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

Choir: Theotokion or Dogmaticon

Gladsome Light

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed, O Jesus Christ. Having come to sunset and beholding the evening light, we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: God. Meet it is at all times that Thou art hymned with fitting voices, O Son of God, thou Giver of Life; where for the world doth glorify Thee.

Evening Prokeimenon

The reader announces the prokeimenon, reads it, reads the verse, and repeats the prokeimenon.

The prokeimenon in the __ tone:

On Sunday evening, Tone 8: Psalm 133

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

verse: That stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

On Monday evening, Tone 4: Psalm 4

The Lord shall hearken unto me, when I cry unto Him.

verse: When I called, the God of my righteousness hearkened unto me.

On Tuesday evening, Tone 1: Psalm 22

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

verse: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

On Wednesday evening, Tone 5: Psalm 53

O God, save me in Thy name, and in Thy power Thou shalt judge me.

verse: O God, hearken unto my prayer; give heed to the sayings of my mouth.

On Thursday evening, Tone 6: Psalm 120

My help is from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.

verse: I lifted up mine eyes unto the mountains, whence cometh my help.

On Friday evening, Tone 7: Psalm 58

O God, Thou art my Helper, and Thy mercy goeth before me.

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

On Saturday evening, Tone 6: Psalm 92

The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath He clothed himself.

verse: The Lord hath clothed Himself with power, and hath girded Himself.

verse: For He hath established the world, which shall not be moved.

verse: Holiness belongeth to Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Readings

If Prophecies or Readings (usually from the Old Testament) for a feast or saint are appointed to be read, they are taken here.

Reader: The Reading from _____.

Vouchsafe, O Lord

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, 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 statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, is forever; despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth a hymn, 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)

Lord, have mercy (12).

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

The Aposticha

The Aposticha is sung, with the proper refrains said by the Reader. If it is a feast of the Lord or of a Saint, its appointed refrains from the Menaion are said in place of the daily refrains.

Aposticha Refrains for Weekday Vespers

Choir: sticheron

(usually from the Octoechos, unless it is a feast, i.e. unless stichera are given for the day in the Menaion.)

Reader: Unto thee do I lift up mine eyes, O thou who dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants are upon the hands of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden are upon the hands of her mistress, even so our eyes are upon the Lord our God, until he be compassionate unto us.

Choir: sticheron

Reader: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for long have we been filled with despitefulness. Yet more is our soul filled with the reproach of the wealthy, and with the despitefulness of the proud.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: If there be a doxasticon from the Menaion, it is sung here.

Reader: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Theotokion (from Octoechos or Menaion).

Aposticha Refrains for Saturday Evening Vespers

Choir: sticheron

Reader: The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath he clothed himself.

Choir: sticheron

Reader: For he hath established the world, which shall not be moved.

Choir: sticheron

Reader: Holiness belongeth to thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Choir: sticheron

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Choir: If there be a doxasticon, it is sung here.

Reader: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Theotokion.

The Prayer of St. Symeon, the Receiver of God

Now dost Thou dismiss thy servant, O Master, according to Thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to be revealed to the nations, 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;
Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our
sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, look upon
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, now
and ever, and unto 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 debts, as
we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from the evil one.

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

Troparia

The Troparion of the Feast, or of the Saint of the Day

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

Troparion of Saint (if more than one Saint)

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

Dismissal Theotokion in tone of the Week

(In Place of the Augmented Litany)

Lord, have mercy (40).

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

Dismissal

Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious without compare than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, verily Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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, (*thrice*), Lord, bless!

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, of our venerable Father Maximus the Confessor, of [*the saint of the day*], and of all the saints, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.