

**The Order  
of  
Daily Vespers**

*The priest vests only in epitrachilion. If a deacon serves, he vests in sticharion and orarion. The curtain is opened. The holy doors are not opened. The deacon (or priest) stands before the closed holy doors.*

**Deacon:** Reverend Father, give the blessing.

**Priest:** + Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If a priest is not present:*

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

**Response:** Amen.

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*From Pentecost until Pascha, "Glory to you..." and "Heavenly King..." are sung:*

Glory to you, our God,  
glory to you!

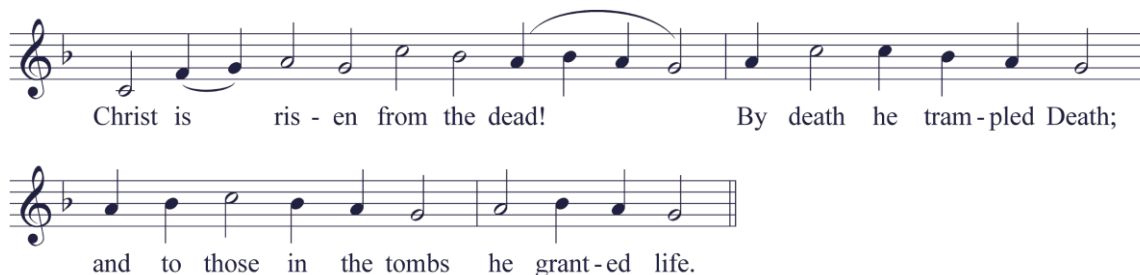
Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
everywhere present and filling all things.

Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,  
come and dwell within us,  
cleanse us of all stain,

and save our souls, O gracious One. <sup>1</sup>

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*From Pascha until Ascension, the following Paschal Troparion is sung three times, first by the priest, then twice by all:*



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<sup>1</sup> Third apostichon from Vespers of Pentecost Sunday.

## Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,<sup>2</sup>  
have mercy on us. (*three times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions;  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities  
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. 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<sup>3</sup>

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the  
glory, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, now and  
ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If a priest is not present:*

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

**Response:** Amen.

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<sup>2</sup>. Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 41:2.

<sup>3</sup>. Matthew 6:9-13.

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

### **Call to Worship**

*each time with a bow:*

- + Come, let us worship our King and God.
- + Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.
- + Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

*During Psalm 103, the priest quietly says the Prayers of Light (pp. 33-35) before the holy doors.  
The deacon enters the altar.*

### **Psalm 103**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Lord my God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of the wind;  
you make your angels spirits  
and your ministers a flaming fire.

You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

At your threat they took to flight;  
at the voice of your thunder they fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down  
to the place which you had appointed.

You set limits they might not pass  
    lest they return to cover the earth.  
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
    they flow in between the hills.  
They give drink to all the beasts of the field;  
    the wild asses quench their thirst.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
    from the branches they sing their song.  
From your dwelling you water the hills;  
    earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
    and the plants to serve man's needs,  
that he may bring forth bread from the earth  
    and wine to cheer man's heart;  
oil, to make his face shine  
    and bread to strengthen man's heart.  
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,  
    the cedars he planted on Lebanon;  
there the birds build their nests;  
    on the treetop the stork has her home.  
The goats find a home on the mountains  
    and rabbits hide in the rocks.  
You made the moon to mark the months;  
    the sun knows the time for its setting.  
When you spread the darkness it is night  
    and all the beasts of the forest creep forth.  
The young lions roar for their prey  
    and ask their food from God.  
At the rising of the sun they steal away  
    and go to rest in their dens.  
Man goes out to his work,  
    to labor till evening falls.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
    The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
    with its moving swarms past counting,  
    living things great and small.  
The ships are moving there  
    and the monsters you made to play with.  
All of these look to you  
    to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up;  
    you open your hand, they have their fill.  
You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
    you take back your spirit, they die,  
    returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
    and you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord last forever!  
    May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
    the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.  
I will sing to the Lord all my life,  
    make music to my God while I live.  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
    I find my joy in the Lord.  
Let sinners vanish from the earth  
and the wicked exist no more.  
    Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*And again:*

You made the moon to mark the months;  
    the sun knows the time for its setting.  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
    In wisdom you have made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Three times, each with a reverence:*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory to you, O God!

*The deacon leaves the altar by the northern door and bows to the priest. The priest returns to the altar. The deacon stands at the ambon, and intones the Litany before the closed holy doors.*

*If there is no deacon, the priest intones the Litany before the closed holy doors.*

## Litany of Peace

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

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

*The deacon continues with the following petitions and the same response is given to each.*

*If a priest is not present, the people do not sing the Litany of Peace. Instead, they sing:*

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever.  
Amen.

*The leader may then intone the Prayer of the Hours (O good God...) on page 7*

For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For our holy father (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For our most reverend metropolitan (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop (*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For this city, [*or*: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

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

For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace. **R.**

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:** To you, O Lord.



**Priest:** Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God.

For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen

*If a priest is not present:*

**Leader:** O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

*The people do not respond "Amen."*

*The deacon bows, enters the altar through the southern door, and stands at the priest's right.*

*If there is no deacon, the priest now enters the altar through the southern door.*

## Kathisma

*At this point, the appropriate Kathisma from the Psalter (or one stasis of the Kathisma) may be read (see pages 36-37). Or, this may be omitted. No Kathisma is read on Sunday evening.*

*If a Kathisma is not to be read, Vespers continues with the Lamp-Lighting Psalms (page 9).*

*The reading of the Kathisma (and each stasis) is introduced in this way:*

**People:** Lord, have mercy (*three times*)  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

**Reader:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.

*The Kathisma (and each stasis) is concluded this way:*

**Reader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

**People:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (*three times*)

## The Small Litany

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

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest:** For yours is the might, and yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

## The Lamp-Lighting Psalms

*The deacon takes the censer, receives the priest's blessing over it, and incenses the whole church.*

*If no priest is present, there is no incensation.*

*The lamps and candles are lit.*

*If there is no deacon, the priest incenses the whole church.*

### Psalm 140

*In the tone of the first sticheron:*

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;

receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you.

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer ascend to you like incense

and the lifting up of my hands like an evening sacrifice.

Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth

and set a seal on the door of my lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,

nor make excuses for sins I commit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.

If a just man strikes or reproves me it is kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.

Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;

then they understood that my words were kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,

so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;  
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!  
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;  
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.  
Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
while I pursue my way unharmed.

### **Psalm 141**

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.  
I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints within me.  
But you, O Lord, know my path.  
On the way where I shall walk, they have hidden a snare to entrap me.  
Look on my right and see:  
there is no one who takes my part.  
I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for my soul.  
I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of the living."  
Listen, then, to my cry  
for I am in the depths of distress.  
Rescue me from those who pursue me  
for they are stronger than I.  
Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise your name.  
Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness to me.

### **Psalm 129**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

*A Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

*A Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak,  
and Israel on the Lord.

*A Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

*A Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord all you nations;  
acclaim him all you peoples.

*A Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
he is faithful forever.

*A Sticheron is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*A Doxasticon, if there is one, is inserted at this point.*

**Cantor:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.

*A Dogmatikon Theotokion is usually inserted at this point.*

*At Daily Vespers, the doors remain closed, there is no incense at this time, and no entrance.*

*At the conclusion of the Theotokion, the deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon) intones aloud:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive | *If no priest is present, the deacon's exclamation is omitted.*

## The Hymn of the Evening

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,  
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have  
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise  
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the  
Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

## The Evening Prokeimenon

*The deacon comes to the holy doors and the priest to the high place.*

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Priest:** + Peace be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

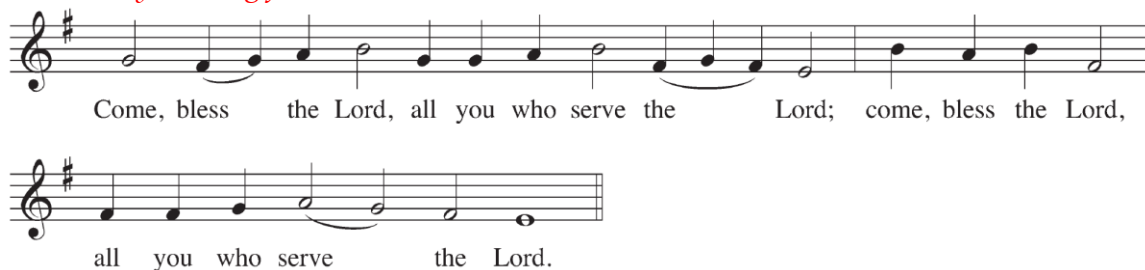
*If no priest is present, these exclamations are omitted.*

*The faithful sing the Prokeimenon or Alleluia.*

*The deacon, (or priest, if there is no deacon), chants the verse or verses.*

*If no priest is present, the leader chants the verse or verses.*

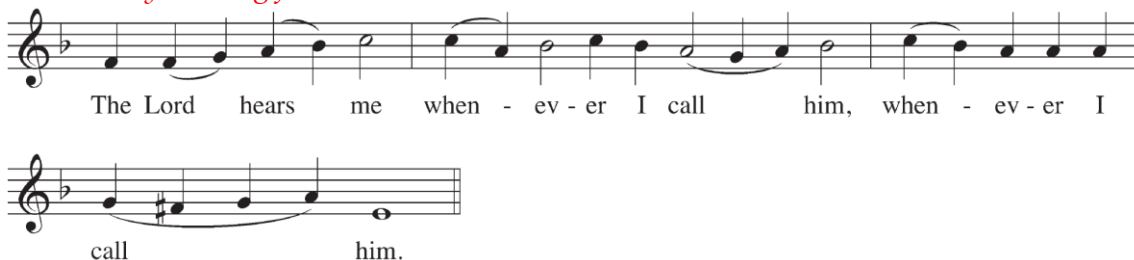
*On Sunday evening from Psalm 133 in Tone 8*



**Deacon:** Who stand in the house of the Lord,  
in the courts of the house of our God.

*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On Monday evening from Psalm 4 in Tone 4*



**Deacon:** When I call, answer me,  
O God of justice.

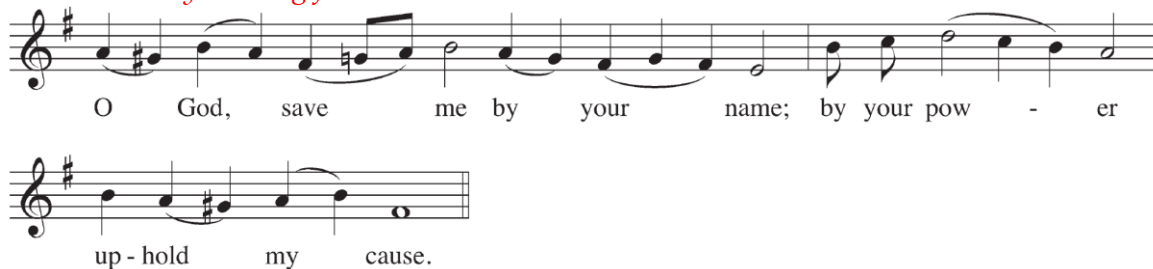
*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On Tuesday evening from Psalm 22 in Tone 1*



**Deacon:** The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want;  
fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

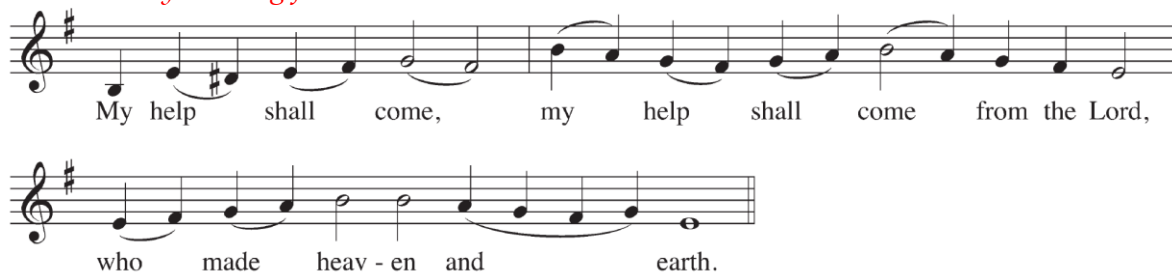
*On Wednesday evening from Psalm 53 in Tone 5*



**Deacon:** O God, hear my prayer:  
listen to the words of my mouth.  
*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*



*On Thursday evening from Psalm 120 in Tone 6*



**Deacon:** I lift up my eyes to the mountains,  
from where shall come my help.

*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On Friday evening from Psalm 58 in Tone 7*



**Deacon:** Rescue me, O God, from my foes;  
protect me from those who attack me.

*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On days of Alleluia in the minor fasts, the Alleluia is sung in place of the Evening Prokeimenon, except on Sunday and Friday evenings, when the usual Prokeimena for those evenings are chanted.*

### **Alleluia in Tone 6**



*On Monday evening the verses are from Psalm 6:*

**Deacon:** O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,  
Chastise me not in your wrath. Alleluia!

**Deacon:** Praise the Lord forever. \* Alleluia!

*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On Tuesday and Thursday evening the verses are from Psalm 98:*

**Deacon:** Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the Lord our God is holy. Alleluia!

**Deacon:** Praise the Lord forever. \* Alleluia!

*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On Wednesday evening the verses are from Psalm 18:*

**Deacon:** Through all the world their voice resounds;  
their message reaches to the ends of the earth. Alleluia!

**Deacon:** Praise the Lord forever. \* Alleluia!

*(to the Hymn of Glorification on page 17).*

*On weekday evenings of the Great Fast, there are two Prokeimena from the Triodion and two Old Testament Readings. The First Prokeimenon is sung with its verse. The deacon remains at the holy doors. The priest sits in his place. The deacon, facing the faithful, intones:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** A reading from [Genesis-or-Exodus]

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

*The reader chants the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, then the deacon intones:*

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The Second Prokeimenon is sung with its verse.*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** A reading from [Proverbs-or-Job]

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

*The reader chants the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, then the celebrant blesses the reader(s):*

**Celebrant:** + Peace be to you, reader(s).

*If no priest is present, the exclamations and blessing are omitted. After each Prokeimena, the reader announces each title and chants each Reading.*

## Hymn of Glorification

Make us worthy O Lord

to be kept sinless this evening.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,

and praiseworthy and glorious is your name for ever. Amen.

May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us

who have placed our hope in you.

+ Blessed are you, O Lord;

teach me your commandments.

+ Blessed are you, O Master;

make me understand your commandments.

+ Blessed are you, O Holy One;

enlighten me with your commandments.

O Lord, your mercy is forever;

despise not the work of your hands.

To you is due praise;

to you is due a hymn;

to you is glory due, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

now and ever and forever. Amen.

*The deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon) returns to the ambon to intone the litany.*

## Litany of Supplication

**Deacon:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord

*If a priest is not present, the people do not sing the Litany of Supplication. Instead, they sing:*

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

*The leader may then pray "Blessed are you..." on page 19.*

*The deacon continues with the following petitions.*

**Deacon:** That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. *The same response is given to each following petition.*

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

For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord. **R.**

For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord. **R.**

That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord. **R.**

For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord. **R.**

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:** To you, O Lord

**Priest:** Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of all, giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds, remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for us in our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If a priest is not present, the leader may pray the evening prayer of St. Basil the Great:*

**Leader:** Blessed are you, O Almighty Master, for you have lighted the day with the brilliance of the sun and the night with the fiery stars. You have counted us worthy of the length of this day and to come to the beginning of night. Hear our prayer and forgive the voluntary and involuntary sins of all your people. Accept our evening prayers and send down in return the greatness of your mercy and kindness upon us, your inheritance. Guard us with your holy angels, clothe us in righteousness as a defense, protect us in your truth, and keep us in your strength. Deliver us from all our enemies and their hostile attacks. Grant that this evening and the approaching night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without violence and free of nightmares. Through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who from all ages have been pleasing to you. Amen.

*The people do not respond "Amen."*

*The following blessing, exclamation, and Prayer over Bowed Heads are omitted and Vespers continues with the Aposticha (p. 21).*

## Prayer over Bowed Heads

**Priest:** + Peace be to all!

**Response:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord!

**Response:** To you, O Lord.

*If a priest is not present, these exclamations and the following prayer over bowed heads are omitted. Vespers continues with the Aposticha (p. 21).*

**Priest:** Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen

*The deacon enters the altar through the southern door.*

## Aposticha

*If no other verses are appointed, use the following from Psalm 122:*

*The first Apostichon is always chanted without a verse before it.*

**Verse:** To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy.

*The second Apostichon is inserted at this point.*

**Verse:** Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
We are filled with contempt.  
Indeed, all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich,  
with the proud man's disdain.

*The third Apostichon is inserted at this point.*

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

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

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

*The Theotokion is inserted at this point.*

## The Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon

Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord,  
in peace according to your word.  
for my eyes have seen your salvation  
which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

## Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,  
have mercy on us. (*three times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions;  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities  
for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. 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

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the  
glory, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, now and  
ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If a priest is not present:*

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

**Response:** Amen.



# Troparia

*Vespers continues with the singing of the Troparia.*

*On days of Alleluia (except Friday evenings in the Minor Fasts), continue with the Troparia and prostrations on page 26.*

## Litany of Daily Vespers

<b>Deacon:</b> Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.	<i>If a priest is not present, the people do not sing the Litany of Daily Vespers. Instead, they sing:</i>
--	--

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

*The deacon continues with the following petitions and the same response is given to each.*

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Again we pray for our holy father *(Name)*, pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop *(Name)*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ. **R.**

Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country. **R.**

Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith. **R.**

**Priest:** For you are a merciful and loving God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If a priest is not present:*

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

**Response:** Amen.

*Daily Vespers then continues with the Dismissal*

*If a priest is not present, Daily Vespers ends here*

## Dismissal

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Response:** More honorable than the Cherubim,  
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,  
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,  
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

---

*Throughout **Pascha**, the following is sung in place of “More honorable...”*

Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord is risen  
upon you. O Zion, now dance and be glad, and you, pure Theotokos,  
rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.

---

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

**Response:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever, and forever. Amen.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Give the blessing.

---

*Throughout **Pascha**, the following is sung in place of “Glory to the Father... Give the blessing.”*

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death;  
and to those in the tombs he granted life.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Give the blessing.

---

**Priest:**

May Christ our true God,

*Throughout Pascha:*

risen from the dead,

*Daily:*

have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother;

*For Wednesday,*

*Friday, & Saturday:*

by the power of the precious and life-creating cross;

*For Monday &*

*Saturday:*

through the protection of the honorable and heavenly angelic powers;

*For Tuesday &*

*Saturday:*

(through the prayers) of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John;

*Daily:*

(through the prayers) of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles;

*For Thursday &*

*Saturday:*

of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra;

*For Saturday:*

of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna;

*Daily:*

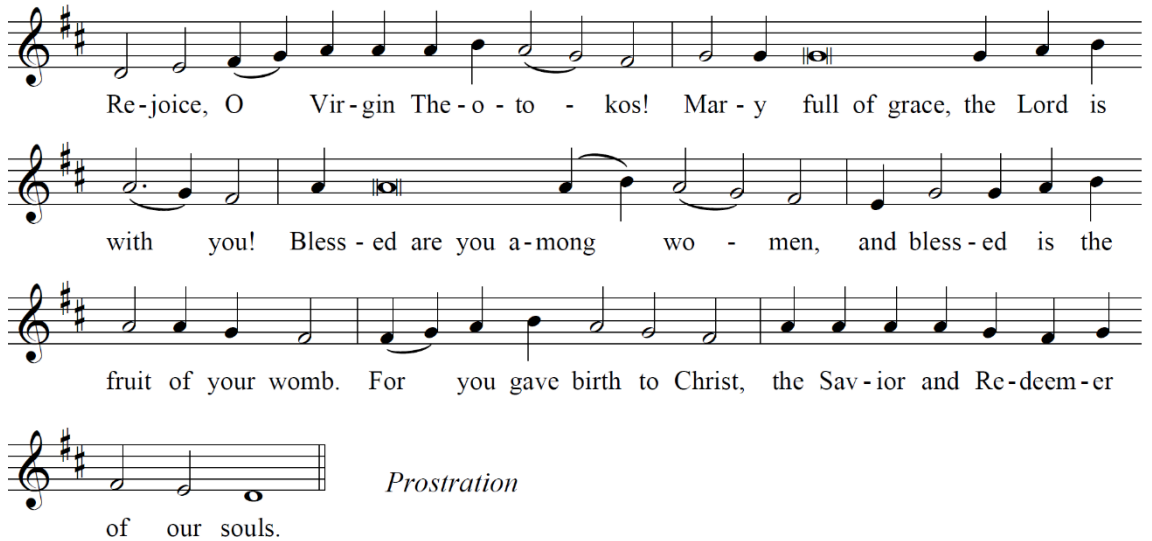
of the holy (*Name/s*), the patron[s] / [patroness] of this church; of the holy (*Name/s of the saint/s whose day it is*); and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

**Response:**



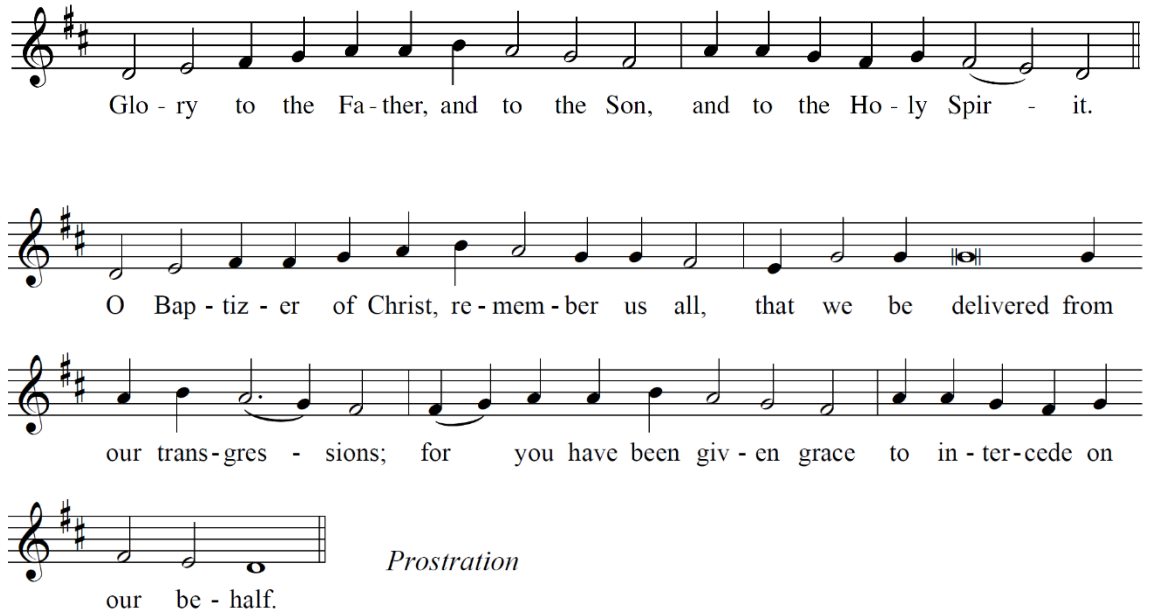
## Dismissal for Fasts

*After the Prayer of St. Simeon and the Trisagion Prayers,  
the following Troparia are sung in Tone 4:*



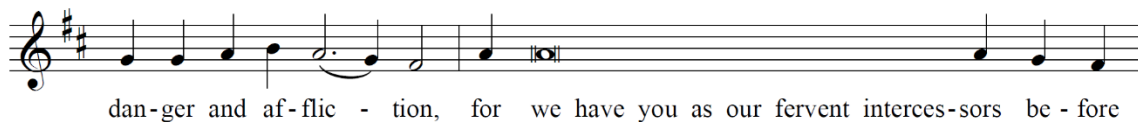
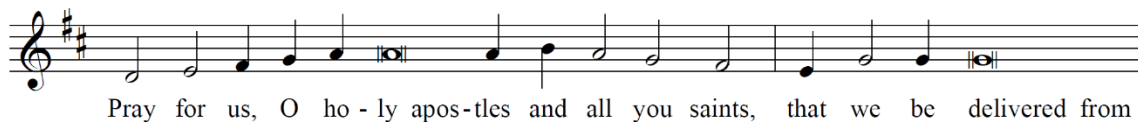
Re-joyce, O Vir-gin The-o - to - kos! Mar - y full of grace, the Lord is  
with you! Bless - ed are you a-mong wo - men, and bless - ed is the  
fruit of your womb. For you gave birth to Christ, the Sav-ior and Re-deem-er  
*Prostration*  
of our souls.

**Cantor:**



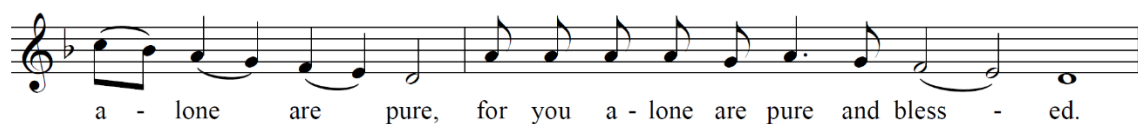
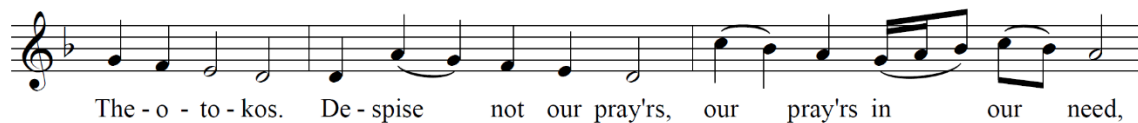
Glo - ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.  
O Bap - tiz - er of Christ, re-mem-ber us all, that we be delivered from  
our trans-gres - sions; for you have been giv - en grace to in - ter-cede on  
*Prostration*  
our be - half.

**Cantor:**



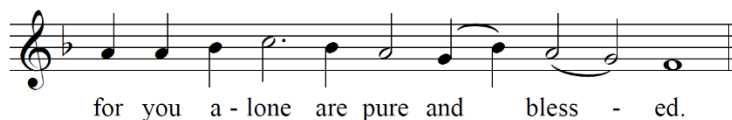
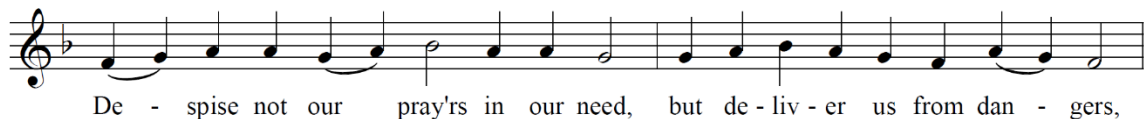
*Then we sing the following most ancient hymn to the Mother of God:  
(alternate melody on next page)*

*melody: Pod tvoju milost' (1)*



or:

melody: Pod tvoju milost' (2)



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*(four times, in English or in several languages)*

**All:** Give the blessing.

**Priest:** Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is  
always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If no priest is present,  
this exclamation and  
blessing are omitted.*

**Priest:** King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith,  
**or Leader:** calm the nations, give peace to the world and safeguard this city (*or*  
this holy monastery), grant those who have gone before us a  
dwelling place among the righteous, accept us in repentance and  
have mercy, for you are good and love us all.

**Response:** Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim,  
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,  
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,  
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.	<i>If no priest is present, this exclamation is omitted</i>
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**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers,  
**or Leader:** O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

**Response:** Amen.

## **The Prayer of St. Ephrem**

**All:** Lord and Master of my life,  
spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,  
lust for power, and idle chatter. (*Prostration*)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant,  
the spirit of integrity, humility,  
patience, and love. (*Prostration*)

Yes, O Lord and King,  
let me see my own sins  
and not judge my brothers and sisters;  
for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen. (*Prostration*)

*Then, with a simple bow, the following is repeated four times:*

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

O Lord, forgive me, for I have sinned without number.

*Once more, the Prayer of St. Ephrem is recited, without the usual prostrations.  
One prostration is made at the conclusion of the prayer.*

## Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,  
have mercy on us. (*three times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions;  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. 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

**Priest:** For thine is the  
kingdom and the  
power and the glory,  
Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, now and  
ever and forever.

*If a priest is not present:*

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

**Response:** Amen.

**Response:** Amen.

*During the Minor Fasts, if no priest is present, Daily  
Vespers ends here. During the Great Fast, continue:*

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

*During the Minor Fasts, Vespers concludes with "Glory... Give the blessing" on page 24 and then the rest  
of the dismissal on page 25. During the Great Fast, continue with "All-holy Trinity..." below.*



**Priest:** All-holy Trinity, consubstantial power, indivisible Kingdom, and Cause  
*or Leader:* of all good, be favorable even to me, a sinner. Give strength and understanding to my heart; cleanse me of all defilement, and enlighten my mind, that I may always glorify, praise and worship you, saying: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Response:** Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever *(3 times)*

### Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.  
Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.  
Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called, the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress.  
The angel of the Lord is encamped,  
around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.  
Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing, those who revere him.  
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.  
Come, children, and hear me  
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is he who longs for life  
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?  
Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn aside from evil and do good;  
 seek and strive after peace.  
 The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
 to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
 The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
 and his ears to their appeal.  
 They call and the Lord hears  
 and rescues them in all their distress.  
 The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
 those whose spirit is crushed he will save.  
 Many are the trials of the just man  
 but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
 He will keep guard over all his bones,  
 not one of his bones shall be broken.  
 Evil brings death to the wicked;  
 those who hate the good are doomed.  
 The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
 Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Response:** It is truly proper to glorify you, who have borne God,  
 the ever blessed, immaculate,  
 and the Mother of our God.  
 More honorable than the Cherubim,  
 and beyond compare more glorious  
 than the Seraphim,  
 who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,  
 you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

**Response:** Glory to the Father, & to the Son, & to the Holy Spirit,  
 now and ever, and forever. Amen.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Give the blessing.

*If no priest is  
present:*

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

**Response:** Amen

*If no priest is  
present, Daily  
Vespers ends here*

*and then the rest of the dismissal (page 25)*

## Vespers Prayers of Light

*The priest prays the Prayers of Light before the Holy doors.*

*Prayer 1:*

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and rich in mercy, give ear to my prayer and attend to the sound of my plea. Show us a sign of your favor, guide us in your way so that we may walk in your truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear your holy name, for you are great and do marvelous deeds. You alone are God, and among the gods there is none like you, O Lord. Powerful in mercy and gracious in strength, you help and comfort and save all those who hope in your holy name.

For all glory, honor and worship are due to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Prayer 2:*

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor punish us in your wrath. Deal with us according to your kindness, O physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbor of your will, enlighten the eyes of our minds that we may know your truth. Grant that we may spend what remains of this day and the rest of our life peacefully and sinlessly, through the intercession 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Prayer 3:*

Lord our God, remember us your sinful and useless servants as we call upon your holy and sublime name and do not put us to shame for hoping in your mercy. Grant us instead, O Lord, all our petitions which lead to salvation and make us worthy to love and to fear you with all our hearts and to do your will in everything.

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and we give you glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Prayer 4:*

You are praised by the holy powers in hymns which are never silent and doxologies which never cease. Fill our mouth with your praise that we may ascribe majesty to your holy name. Through the intercession of the holy Mother of God and of all the saints, give us a share and an inheritance with all those who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments.

For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor and worship, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Prayer 5:*

Blessed are you, Lord God Almighty. You know the human mind; you know our needs long before we ask or recognize them. Therefore, O King and Lover of mankind, good in every way, allow us in your great mercy to call upon your holy name with a clear conscience, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, and, in your providence, arrange everything for our good.

For to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is due all glory, honor and worship, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Prayer 6:*

Lord, O Lord, you hold all things in your spotless hand; you are long-suffering toward all of us, and you repent over our evil deeds; remember your mercy and your compassion. Visit us in your goodness and for the rest of this day enable us to flee from the many wiles of the evil one and keep our life secure by the grace of your all-holy Spirit.

Through the mercy and the loving-kindness of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

*Prayer 7:*

Great and wonderful God, you govern all things with indescribable goodness and rich providence. You have granted us the good things of this earth and through the good things already bestowed on us have given us a pledge of the promised kingdom. You have kept us away from every evil during the part of this day which has passed even until the present moment; now allow us to complete the rest of the day without blame, in the presence of your holy glory, singing hymns to you, O God, who alone are good and love mankind.

For you are our God, and to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give glory, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Prayer 8:*

Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of all, giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds, remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for us in our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

## Order of Reading the Kathismata

### The Summer System

*From the Sunday of Thomas to September 21<sup>st</sup>, from December 20<sup>th</sup> to January 14<sup>th</sup>, and in Meatfare and Cheesefare weeks, the kathisma is read at Vespers according to the following cycle:*

<u>Evening</u>	<u>at Vespers</u>
Saturday	Kathisma 1
Sunday	-
Monday	Kathisma 6
Tuesday	Kathisma 9
Wednesday	Kathisma 12
Thursday	Kathisma 15
Friday	Kathisma 18

### The Winter & Lenten Systems

*From September 22<sup>nd</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup>, from January 15<sup>th</sup> to the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, and from Clean Monday to Holy Wednesday (except the fifth week of the Great Fast), the kathisma is read at Vespers according to the following cycle:*

<u>Evening</u>	<u>at Vespers</u>
Saturday	Kathisma 1
Sunday	-
Monday	Kathisma 18
Tuesday	Kathisma 18
Wednesday	Kathisma 18
Thursday	Kathisma 18
Friday	Kathisma 18

*During the fifth week of the Great Fast, the kathisma is read at Vespers according to the following cycle:*

<u>Evening</u>	<u>at Vespers</u>
Saturday	Kathisma 1
Sunday	-
Monday	Kathisma 10
Tuesday	Kathisma 19
Wednesday	Kathisma 7
Thursday	Kathisma 12
Friday	Kathisma 18

*The Psalter is not read from Holy Thursday to Bright Saturday*

## Abbreviating the Kathisma

*The reader may read one stasis at Vespers rather than the whole Kathisma.*

*(Each Kathisma consists of three stases).*

*For example, the reader may read*

*the 1<sup>st</sup> stasis of the appropriate Kathisma when the tone of the week is 1, 4, or 7, or*

*the 2<sup>nd</sup> stasis of the appropriate Kathisma when the tone of the week is 2, 5, or 8, or*

*the 3<sup>rd</sup> stasis of the appropriate Kathisma when the tone of the week is 3 or 6.*

<b>Tone of the Week</b>	<b>Stasis of the Kathisma</b>
1, 4, 7	1 <sup>st</sup>
2, 5, 8	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3, 6	3 <sup>rd</sup>