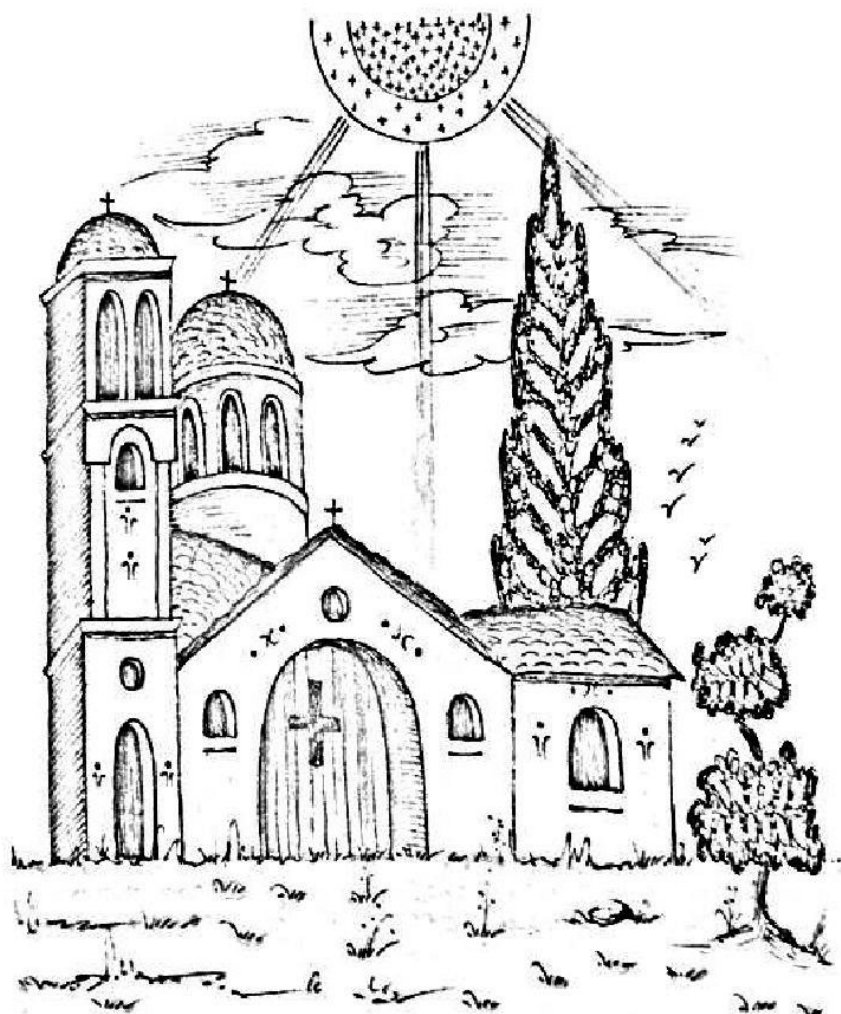


# GREAT VESPERS





# THE ORDER OF GREAT VESPERS

*Priest:* 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. (3x)

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. (3x)

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.

*Priest:* **For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.**

*Reader:* Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

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

## Psalm 103

*(While the psalm is being chanted, the Priest prays The Prayers of Light. These prayers are available to read at the back of this service booklet.)*

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 shall 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 Thine 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 shall they 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 has 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 Thy 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 sendeth 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. (3x)

## The Great Litany

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan\_\_\_\_\_, and His (Eminence, Grace), our (Archbishop, Bishop)\_\_\_\_\_, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Commemorating our most holy, more pure, most blessed and glorious

Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* **O Lord our God, Thy power is incomparable. Thy glory is incomprehensible. Thy mercy is immeasurable. Thy love for man is inexpressible. Look down on us and on this holy house with pity, O Master, and impart the riches of Thy mercy and Thy compassion to us and to those who pray with us.**

(Aloud) For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Blessed is the Man**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia (3x)  
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Alleluia (3x)

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling! Alleluia (3x)

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him! Alleluia (3x)

Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! Alleluia (3x)

Salvation belongs to the Lord! Thy blessing be upon Thy people. Alleluia (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia (3x)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

### **The Little Litany**

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* **O Thou who hast given us grace with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and didst promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wouldst grant their requests. Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Thy servants as may be expedient for them: granting us in this world the knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting.**

(Aloud) For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## **Lord, I Call**

*Choir:* Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me; receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon Thee. Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands 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 my 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, I turn mine eyes; in Thee I hope, take not away my soul. Keep me from the snares 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 have I cried unto the Lord, with my voice have I prayed unto 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 hope. 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.

*Reader:* Lead forth my soul from prison, that I may confess thy name;

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* The righteous await me, till Thou shalt reward me.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

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

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* Let Thine ears give heed to the voice of my prayer.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* If Thou observest transgressions, Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee is propitiation.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* For Thy name's sake have I waited upon Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* From the morning watch even to the night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

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

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* O praise the Lord, all ye nations, praise Him, all ye people.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* For His mercy hath been confirmed upon us, and the truth of the Lord remaineth forever.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

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

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

*Reader:* Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Choir:* (*chants verse of the day*)

## **The Prayer of the Entrance**

*The clergy make the Little Entrance with the Censer. Standing before the open Holy Doors, facing the Altar, the Deacon says:*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

## **The Prayer of the Entrance**

*Priest:* **In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks and pray to Thee, O Master of all. Let our prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and do not give our hearts to words or thoughts of evil. Deliver us from all who seek our souls, for to Thee, O Lord, Lord, do we look and on Thee have we hoped, that Thou wilt not forsake us, O our God!**

*(Aloud)* For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Deacon:* Bless, Master, the Holy Entrance.

*Priest:* Blessed is the entrance of Thy saints always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Attend.

## **O Gladsome Light**

*Choir:* O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father: heavenly, holy, blessed, Jesus Christ! Having come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: God! At all times Thou are worthy, of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life. Therefore the world glorifies Thee.

## **The Evening Prokeimenon**

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us attend!

*Priest:* Peace be unto all!

*Deacon:* The Prokeimenon in the 6th tone: The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty.

*Choir:* The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty.

*Deacon:* The Lord hath clothed Himself with power and hath girded Himself.

*Choir:* *(sings first prokeimenon verse)*

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

*Choir:* *(sings first prokeimenon verse)*

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

*Choir:* *(sings first prokeimenon verse)*

*Deacon:* The Lord is King!

*Choir:* He is robed in majesty!

*(If readings from the Old Testament are appointed, they are read here.)*

## **The Litany of Fervent Supplication**

*(The Augmented Litany)*

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

*Deacon:* Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Most Blessed Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, our Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, and all our brethren in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Deacon:* Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Deacon:* Again we pray for our brethren, the Deacons, the Deaconmonks, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Deacon:* Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, \_\_\_\_\_, who, here and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Deacon:* Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God \_\_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Deacon:* Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## **The Evening Prayer**

*Reader:* Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is 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, let me understand Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes! Thy mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Thy hands.

To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song. To Thee is due all glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **The Litany of Supplication**

*Deacon:* Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That the evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

## **Prayer at the Bowing of Heads**

*Priest:* O Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon Thy servants and upon Thine inheritance. For to Thee, the awesome Judge who lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and bent their necks; not expecting help from men, but hoping in Thy mercy and looking for Thy salvation. Protect them at all times, especially in this present evening and in the coming night, from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil,

from vain thoughts, and from evil memories.

*(Aloud)* Blessed and most glorified be the majesty of Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

### **Aposticha**

*Choir: (The choir sings the appointed first verse of the day.)*

*Reader:* The Lord is King! He is robed in majesty!

*Choir: (The choir sings the appointed second verse of the day.)*

*Reader:* For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

*Choir: (The choir sings the appointed third verse of the day.)*

*Reader:* Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

*Choir: (The choir sings the appointed fourth verse of the day.)*

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

*Choir: (The choir sings the appointed verse(s) of the day.)*

### **Prayer of St. Symeon**

*Choir:* Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

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.

*Priest:* **For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.**

## Troparia

*Choir:* (The choir sings the appointed troparia for the Sunday and the Saint(s).)

## The Dismissal

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Choir:* Father, bless!

*Priest:* Christ our God, the Existing, is blessed always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

*Priest:* O most holy Theotokos, save us.

*Choir:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without corruption Thou gavest birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify Thee.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God and our hope, glory to Thee!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

*Priest:* **May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles; and of St. Luke the Evangelist, patron of this holy temple \_\_\_\_\_, (and the saint of the day) whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.**





