

Daily Vespers

(appointed to be said when a Priest is present)

Required Liturgical Texts: Archdiocese Service Book, The Liturgikon, The Ochoechos (available in various forms and texts)

Optional Liturgical Texts: The Menaion

Priest: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader:

Amen.

Note: If 9th Hour is not said immediately preceding Daily Vespers, we begin with the full Trisagion Prayers.

O come, let us worship and bow down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and bow down before the Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and bow down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

During Paschal-tide, Christ is Risen ... is said three times instead of the above.

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment: Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters: Who maketh the clouds his chariot: Who walketh upon the wings of the wind: Who maketh His angels spirits; His ministers a flaming fire: Who laid the foundations of the earth that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which Thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from His chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth: and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face shine, and

bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which He hath planted; where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the badgers. He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom, hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, who Thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon Thee; that Thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That Thou givest them they gather: Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest Thy face, they are troubled: Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth Thy spirit, they are created: and Thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in His works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: He touches the hills, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of Him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom has Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to Thee, O God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to Thee, O God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to Thee, O God.
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, the welfare of the holy churches of God, and

for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our Metropolitan (name), the venerable priesthood, and the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us; save us; and have mercy upon us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, 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: 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.

Note: Here may be said the appointed Kathisma. After the Kathisma, the Little Litany is said. If the Kathisma is not read, "O Lord, I have cried" is sung immediately following the Great Litany.

O LORD, I HAVE CRIED

(Sung in the proper tone)

O Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear me; receive the voice of my supplication when I cry unto Thee. Hear Me. O Lord.

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

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth and a protecting door about my lips. Incline not my heart to evil deeds, to make excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity: let me never partake of their delights.

Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let not the oil of the sinner ever anoint my head. For my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one breaks and shatters on the ground, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the grave.

But my eyes are turned toward Thee, Lord God, In Thee I take refuge. Leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets while I alone escape.

I cried with my voice to the Lord, with my voice to the Lord did I make my supplication. I poured out my complaint before Him. I showed before him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me. I looked on my right but there was no one that would know me. Refuge failed me. No one care for my soul.

I cried to Thee, O Lord, I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry for I am brought very low. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Thy name. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

The Theology Verse (sticheron from the Ochoechos) appointed is read.

5. Because of Thy name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

The Theology Verse (sticheron from the Ochtoechos) appointed is read.

4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

The Theology Verse (sticheron from the Ochtoechos) appointed is read.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all His iniquities.

The Theology Verse (sticheron from the Ochtoechos or Menaion) appointed is read.

2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye peoples.

The Theology Verse (sticheron from the Ochtoechos or Menaion) appointed is read.

1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

The Theology Verse (sticheron from the Ochtoechos or Menaion) appointed is read.

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

If a Doxasticon is appointed for the saint or feast, it is read here. If there is not one appointed, continue with:

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The appointed Theotokion (from the Ochtoechos or Menaion) is sung in tone.

Reader:

O Joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, and giver of life. Therefore, all the world glorifies Thee.

Priest: The Prokeimenon
(here is inserted the appropriate Prokeimenon--see Liturgikon for text)

Reader:

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have put our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth

forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE EVENING LITANY

Priest: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Reader: Lord, have mercy.

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

Reader: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That this whole evening may be holy, perfect, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Reader: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: An angel of peace, a radiant guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Reader: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Reader: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Reader: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Reader: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Reader: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, 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: For Thou art a merciful God, who 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.

Reader: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Reader: *(slowly)* To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: Blessed and 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.

Reader: Amen.

Then is read the appointed Aposticha verses.

Reader: 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.

Holy God ... *(and the rest of the Trisagion Prayers)*

Then is sung the Appointed Apolytikion with the accompanying Theotokion (see Nassar for daily Troparia/Theotokia or the Horologion).

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THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Priest: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray, Thee, hearken and have mercy.

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

Priest: Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians; for our Most Reverend Metropolitan (name); for Priests, Deacons, Monks and Nuns, and for all our brethren in Christ.

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

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God (names), and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Priest: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy temple; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox Christians departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord; and for the Orthodox servant(s) of God departed this life (names), and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

Choir: Memory eternal. *(3 times)*

Priest: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

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

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and to 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.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: Father, bless.

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

Reader: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Reader: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Sure Hope, Glory to Thee.

Reader:

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

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Father, bless.

Priest: *(gives the usual dismissal)*

NOTE: It is the practice in some parishes to read the lives of the saints from the Horologion or Prologue after the Dismissal.