# THE SERVICES

# OF THE

# HOURS

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# THE

# GREAT

# BOOK

# OF THE

# HOURS

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# GREAT

# HOROLOGION

Ottawa, Ontario
2002-2007-
2017-2025
USDAOC, ed

# THE SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER

***That is, VESPERS***

*The beginning of Great Vespers at Vigil is as follows :*
*The ninth hour is read first. Afterwards, the deacon begins :*

**Deacon :** Arise. Master bless.

**Presbyter :** Glory be to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**Clergy:** O come, let us worship God our King.
Come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ, our King, and our God.

*All Vesper services, except at Vigil, begin as follows :*
[*If the Ninth Hour immediately precede, then we omit the Usual Beginning, and we instead begin : "O come, let us worship ...".*]

**Presbyter :** Blessed is our God, Always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

– *or* -- **Reader :** Through the prayers of our holy *fathers*, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.[1]

**Reader :** Amen.

(*In some places, it is the one presiding who reads Glory..., and O Heavenly King..., before the reader begins.*)

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

– *or– :* Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, our hope, glory be to You.

***** O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are everywhere, and fulfil all things ; Treasury of good things, and Provider of Life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

***** [We do not read "Heavenly King" in paschaltide. We say "Christ is risen..." (three times). From Ascension to Leavetaking, we read the tropar of Ascension.]

[1] This invocation refers to the persons present, not ancestors, hence fathers for a male monastery, mothers for a female monastery, brothers, and sisters for a parish or the like.

**Reader :** Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.[2]
(*three times*) (*three metanias*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins.[3] O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your 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 bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.[4]

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Reader :** Amen.[5]
Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Readers :** O 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. (*with three metanias*)

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[2] For Greeks, the Trisagion itself is also not read during Paschaltide.
During the Trisagion there are three Metanias by all. The word "metania", when found alone, means the bowing of the head, without bowing the knees. It is also known as a lesser metania. The "great metania", which means "prostration", means bending the knees to the floor, and touching the forehead to the floor. It is used when there is "alleluia", that is, during fasting periods.

[3] Slavonic text. Greek text : be propitious to

[4] The translation follows Saint John Chrysostom, and Saint Cyprian of Carthage in particular. "Daily bread," or "the bread of this day", we are instructed, follows the Lord's admonition to be concerned only with the needs of this day ; and it carries the understanding of Eucharistic Bread and the Heavenly Banquet also. [The word for this, "epiousios" is used only in the New Testament.] We are instructed in the Epistle of Saint James (chapter 1) that we are not tempted by God; the Fathers perceive that we may, because of our rebellion and our passions, be abandoned by God to be tested, however.

[5] The reader shall respond "Amen" to "Our Father" regardless of the presence or absence of a presbyter.

*See the box following, for paschaltide*

> *In Paschalatide, if Vespers follow the Ninth Hour immediately, we say "Christ is risen ..." three times, instead. If the Ninth Hour do not so precede, the tropar of Pascha is sung at the*

*And the reader (or the bishop if he be present, and it be the custom ) reads Psalm 103.*

**PSALM 103**[6]

**Readers :** Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, You have been greatly magnified ; You have put on confession, and splendour, throwing light around You like a garment, and stretching out the heaven like a skin. He covers His upper chambers with water ; He makes the clouds His steps of ascent ; He walks around on the wings of the winds. He makes His angels His spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. He lays the foundations of the earth for its stability, so that it shall not be bent unto the ages of ages. The abyss is His mantle like a garment, the waters shall stand up on the mountains. From Your rebuke they shall flee away ; from the voice of Your thunder they shall be afraid. The mountains climb up, and the plains go down into the places where You founded them. You have placed a bound which they shall not pass, nor shall they turn around, and cover the earth. He sends out the springs in the ravines ; the waters shall pass between the mountains. They shall give drink to the wild beasts of the field, and the wild asses shall quench their thirst ; the birds of the heaven shall make their home on them, and from the midst of the rocks shall they sound forth their voice, watering the mountains from His upper chambers. From the fruit of Your works shall the earth be sated. He makes the grass spring up for the cattle, and green plants for the service of Men, so that he may bring forth bread from the earth, and wine makes glad the heart of Man ; so that he may gladden his face with oil, and bread makes firm the heart of Man. The trees of the plain shall be sated, the cedars of Lebanon which You planted. There the sparrows shall make their nests ; the house of the heron is chief amongst them. The highest mountains are for the hart ; the rocks are a

[6] The presbyter, with head uncovered, stands before the Holy Doors, and reads the Prayers of Light (*see the appendix*).

refuge for the hare. He made the moon for seasons ; the sun has known its setting. You appointed the darkness, and it became night, and through it shall move all the wild forest beasts ; the cubs of the lion roaring to snatch their prey, seeking their food from God. The sun has risen, and they have been gathered, and they shall lie down in their dens. Man shall go forth to his work, and to his labour until evening. How magnified have been Your works, O LORD ; in wisdom have You made them all. The earth has been filled with Your creation. Here is the sea, great, and broad ; in it are reptiles beyond number, living things, both small, and great. There the ships move about ; and that leviathan which You fashioned to sport in it. All expect You to give them food in due season. When You give it to them, they gather it ; when You open Your hand, all things are filled with loving-kindness. But when You turn away Your Face, they shall be stirred up. You have taken away their spirit, they shall fade away, and return to their dirt. You shall send forth Your spirit, and they shall be established ; and You will renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the LORD be forever ; the LORD will be glad in His works – He who looks upon the earth, and makes it tremble ; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I shall sing to the LORD in my life ; I shall chant to my God while I have being. May my conversation be made sweet to Him ; as for me, I shall be glad in the LORD. May sinners fade away from the earth, and the iniquitous, so that they cease to be. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

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

**Readers :** now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.

(*three times*)

*If it be prescribed, then Psalm 103 may be sung as follows in the text-box, in whole or in part, with refrains. In bold are the usually selected verses for the briefer form.*

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**Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

**BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD.** *First*

**O LORD my God, You have been greatly magnified ; (R) You have put on confession, and splendour, (R)** throwing light around You like a garment, and stretching out the heaven like a skin. (R) He covers His upper chambers with water ; (R) He makes the clouds His steps of ascent ; (R) He walks around on the wings of the winds. (R) He makes His angels His spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. (R) He lays the foundations of the earth for its stability, so that it shall not be bent unto the ages of ages. (R) The abyss is His mantle like a garment, the waters shall stand up on the mountains.

**HOW GLORIOUS ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD.** *Second refrain*

From Your rebuke they shall flee away ; from the voice of Your thunder they shall be afraid. (R) The mountains climb up, and the plains go down into the places where You founded them. (R) You have placed a bound which they shall not pass, nor shall they turn around, and cover the earth. (R) **He sends out the springs in the ravines ; the waters shall pass between the mountains. (R)** They shall give drink to the wild beasts of the field, and the wild asses shall quench their thirst ; (R) the birds of the heaven shall make their home on them, (R) and from the midst of the rocks shall they sound forth their voice, watering the mountains from His upper chambers. (R) From the fruit of Your works shall the earth be sated. He makes the grass spring up for the cattle, and green plants for the service of Men, (R) so that he may bring forth bread from the earth, and wine makes glad the heart of Man ; (R) so that he may gladden his face with oil, and bread makes firm the heart of Man. (R ) The trees of the plain shall be sated, the cedars of Lebanon which You planted. (R) There the sparrows shall make their nests ; the house of the heron is chief amongst them. (R) The highest mountains are for the hart ; the rocks are a refuge for the hare. (R) He made the moon for seasons ; the sun has known its setting. (R) You appointed the darkness, and it became night, and through it shall move all the wild forest beasts ; (R) the cubs of the lion roaring to snatch their prey, seeking their food from God. (R) The sun has risen, and they have been gathered, and they shall lie down in their dens. (R) Man shall go forth to his work, and to his labour until evening. **How magnified have been**

and makes it tremble ; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. (R) I shall sing to the LORD in my life ; I shall chant to my God while I have being. (R) May my conversation be made sweet to Him ; as for me, I shall be glad in the LORD. (R) May sinners fade away from the earth, and the iniquitous, so that they cease to be. (R) Bless the LORD, O my soul. (R) Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. (*R*)

## GREAT LITANY (Of Peace)

(*If there be no presbyter, then we sing "Lord, have mercy" 12 or 40 times.*)

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. (*and so, after each petition*)

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

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

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

For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan *n*, and for His (*Eminence*) Grace, our father, (*Arch*)Bishop *n*,[7] for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy, and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For this country, for those who govern it ; for all the civil authorities, and for the public service, let us pray to the Lord.

For this *city* (*town, village, monastery, countryside*), for every city , and country, and for the Faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

For our rescue from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

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.

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

**Presbyter :** For unto You are due all glory, honour, and worship, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

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[7] In a monastic community we pray for the superior by name.

## SESSION OF PSALMS[8]

*First Station, selected verses, used for some Feast-days :*

Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the impious.
**Refrain :** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, and the way of the impious shall perish.
**Refrain**
Serve the LORD in fear, and in trembling exult in Him.
**Refrain**
Blessed are all those who have put their trust in Him.
**Refrain**
Arise, O LORD, save me, O My God.
**Refrain**
Salvation is of the LORD, and upon Your people is Your blessing.
**Refrain**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
**Refrain**

### LITTLE LITANY

**Deacon :** Again, and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.
**Response :** Lord, have mercy.
**Deacon :** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.
**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

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[8] **The rule for reading the SESSIONS OF PSALMS :**
–On ordinary weekdays or Saturdays (without polyelei or vigil), we read the prescribed Session. But if it be a weekday, and a vigil was served the night before, the Session is omitted (Sunday evening, for example).
–If it be a Polyelei, we sing only the selected verses of the First Session as given.
–If it be a Vigil, we sing the First Station of the First Session, or only selected verses.
–If a Feast of the Lord fall on Monday, we sing we sing the First Station of the First Session, or only selected verses.
–If a Feast of the Lord fall on Tuesday through Saturday, we omit the Session.
–If it be Sunday Vigil (i.e. Saturday Evening), we sing the First Station of the First Session, and read the remaining two stations.
–If the Feast with Vigil fall on Sunday, we follow the Session for Sunday .

**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.

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

**Presbyter :** For Yours is the dominion ; and Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

✢ *And if there be the reading of the Second Station, then afterwards on Saturday only, there follows the* Little Litany, *and the presbyter's exclamation is as follows :*

**Presbyter :** For You are a good God, O Lover of Man, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

✢ *And if there be the reading of the Third Station, then afterwards on Saturday only, there follows the* Little Litany, *and the presbyter's exclamation is as follows :*

**Presbyter :** For You are our God, and to You do we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

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*Immediately, we sing "O Lord, I have cried" in the Tone of the Week* (*or in the tone of the verses of the Menaion service, or the tone of the Octoechos verses*). *If the blessing be given, the refrain "Hear me, O Lord" may follow the Psalm-verses until the beginning of the Stikhs.*

**O LORD, I HAVE CRIED**
**(*Psalms 140. 141, 129, 116*)**

**Reader :** In the _____ tone : O Lord, I have cried out You, hear me.

**PSALM 140**

**Readers :** O LORD, I have cried out to You. Hear me. Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication, when I cry out to You.

HEAR ME, O LORD.[9] (*Refrain*)
Let my prayer be directed in Your sight as incense ; and the lifting-up of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.
HEAR ME, O LORD. (*Refrain*)

*And we read the verses in their order, unless it be a Vigil, until the beginning of the verses.*

**Reader :** O LORD, set a guard on my mouth, and a fortified door around my lips. (R) Do not incline my heart away to words of evil, to make excuse for my sin. (R) I am with Men who work iniquity, but I will never join in with their chosen ones. (R) The righteous shall chastise me with mercy, and reprove me, but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head, as my prayer is ever against their good pleasure. (R) Their judges have been drowned holding the rock ; my words shall be heard, for they have been sweetened. (R) As a clod of earth has been broken, so our bones have been scattered all around Hadēs. (R) For to You, O LORD, LORD, do my eyes look. On You have I hoped. Do not take away my soul. (R) Guard me from the snare which they set up for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of those who work iniquity. (R) The sinners shall fall into their own nets ; but as for me, I am alone until I pass over. (R)

**PSALM 141**

With my voice have I cried out to the LORD ; with my voice have I entreated the LORD. (R) I shall pour out before Him my supplication ; I shall make known in His presence my oppression. (R) When my spirit fails within me, You have known my paths ; on this road on which I have walked, have they hidden a snare for me. (R) I considered my right hand, and looked down, for there was no-one who recognised me ; flight has been lost from me, and there is no-one to seek out my soul. (R) To You, O LORD, have I cried out, and I have said, "You are my hope ; You are my portion in the land of the living". (R) Give heed to my supplication, for I have been greatly humbled ; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they have grown stronger than I. (R)

**Reader :** Lead my soul out of prison,

**Reader :** so that I may confess Your name, O LORD. (10)[10]

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[9] This capitalised phrase may be used as a refrain on the psalm-verses until the verses begin, as the superior may bless. Otherwise, it is simply sung or read here alone.

[10] Numbers indicate placement of verses, according to the number provided on the day, and standard for Vespers of Sunday. At least once in the year, however, there are up to twenty-four verses.

**Reader :** The righteous shall await me ;
**Reader :** until You reward me. (9)

**PSALM 129**

**Reader :** Out of the depths have I cried out to You, O LORD ;
**Reader :** O Lord, hear my voice. (8) (*Services of Vigil or Polyelei rank*)
**Reader :** May Your ear give heed
**Reader :** to the voice of my supplication. (7)
**Reader :** If You marked iniquities, O LORD, O LORD, who shall withstand ?
**Reader :** For with You is propitiation. (6)
(*Services of Doxology rank*)[11]
**Reader :** For Your name's sake have I waited for You, O LORD. My soul has waited for Your word.
**Reader :** My soul has hoped on the LORD. (5)
**Reader :** From the morning watch until night ; from the morning watch,
**Reader :** let Israel hope on the LORD. (4) (*At Small Vespers*)
**Reader :** For with the LORD, there is mercy, and with Him, plenteous redemption ;
**Reader :** And He will redeem Israel from all His iniquities. (3)[12]

**PSALM 116**

**Reader :** Praise the Lord, all you nations.
**Reader :** sing praises to Him, all you people. (2)
**Reader :** For His mercy has grown strong upon us,
**Reader :** and the truth of the LORD endures forever. (1)
**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
**Reader :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
*Verse from the Menaion, if provided*
**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
**Reader :** Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Glory-verse or Dogmatic[13]

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[11] Also daily simple services, with Octoechos coming before Menaion.

[12] Verses from the Menaion.

[13] If it be a Feast of the Lord or of the Theotokos : Glory : …Now :… Theotokos Hymn.
–On Friday we sing the Dogmatic of the Tone of the Week.
–On Saturday we sing the Dogmatic of the Tone of Sunday.
–Sunday through Thursday evening we sing the Theotokos-Hymn from the Menaion, or if not, the Theotokos-Hymn provided from the back of the Menaion according to the rank of the service.

*If there be no entrance, then we immediately read or sing the hymn of lamp-lighting.*

*If it be a Vigil or Polyelei rank, or 1 or 13 September, then there is an Entrance.*

*After the Entrance procession comes to the Royal Doors, the deacon, having censed according to custom, the prayer having been said, and having asked for the blessing of the entrance, holds high the censer* (*or the Gospel Book if it be prescribed*), *and he says :*

**Deacon :** Wisdom. Stand aright.

*And we sing, or the reader reads, as prescribed, the Lamp-lighting Hymn :*

**GLADSOME LIGHT**

*By the Hieromartyr Athenogenos*
*edited by Saint Soprhonius, Patriarch of Jerusalem*

**Readers :** O Jesus Christ, the Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed Father ; now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and see the light of evening, we praise God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ; for meet it is at all times to worship You with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of Life ; therefore, all the world glorifies You.

**PROKEIMENON** [14]

*At Daily Vespers* (*without Entrance*), *the deacon says :*

**Deacon :** Wisdom. Let us attend.
The Prokeimenon in the ___ tone.

*At Great Vespers* (*with Entrance*), *the deacon begins:*

**Deacon :** Let us attend.
**Presbyter :** Peace be to all.
**Deacon :** Wisdom.
The Prokeimenon in the ___ tone.

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–On Tuesday or Thursday evening, we sing the Cross-Theotokos-Hymn from the Menaion, or the Octoechos.

[14] During the Nativity or Apostles' Fasts, on weekdays, when Alleluia is indicated by the Menaion, then we replace the Prokeimenon with the appointed Alleluia, and its verses. We do not sing "Alleluia" on Sunday, or Friday evenings.



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**PROKEIMENONS**

*If it be a reader's service, the reader announces the prokeimenon, and tone.*

**SATURDAY** (*Psalm 92) Tone 6*

The LORD has established His reign, * He has put on splendour.

**v :** The LORD has put on power, and girded Himself.

**v :** He made the world firm so that it may not be shaken.

**v :** Sanctification becomes Your house, O LORD, unto length of days.

**SUNDAY** (*Psalm 133) Tone 8*

Behold, now bless the LORD, * all you servants of the LORD.

**v :** You that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

**MONDAY** (*Psalm 4) Tone 4*

The LORD will hear me * when I cry out to Him.

**v :** When I call, You have heard me, O God of my righteousness.

**TUESDAY** *(Psalm 22) Tone 1*

Your mercy shall pursue me * all the days of my life.

**v :** The LORD is my shepherd, and I shall lack nothing. He has pitched my tent in a place of green pasture.

**WEDNESDAY** *(Psalm 53) Tone 5*

O God, in Your name save me, * and in Your power You judge me.

**v :** O God, hear my prayer, give ear to the words of my mouth.

**THURSDAY** *(Psalm 120) Tone 6*

My help comes from the LORD, * who made the heavens, and the earth.

**v :** I have raised my eyes to the mountains ; from where shall my help come ?

**FRIDAY** *(Psalm 58) Tone 7*

You are my support, O God. * O my God, Your mercy shall outrun me.

**v :** Take me out of the grasp of my enemies, O God, and from those who rise up against me, redeem me.

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**ALLELUIA**

*Weekdays in Apostles' or Nativity Fast*

**MONDAY** *Tone 6 Psalm 6*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**v :** O LORD, do not reprove me in Your fury, nor in Your anger

instruct me.

**v :** And unto the ages of ages.

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY** *Tone 6 Psalm 98*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**v :** Exalt the LORD our God ; worship at the footstool of His feet, for He is holy.

**v :** And unto the ages of ages.

**WEDNESDAY** *Tone 6 Psalm 18*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**v :** Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the whole world.

**v :** And unto the ages of ages.

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## GREAT PROKEIMENONS

**PASCHA, PENTECOST EVENING :** *(Psalm 76) Tone 7*

Who is so great a god as our god ? * You are the god who does wonders.

**V :** You have made Your power known amongst Your peoples. You have redeemed Your people with Your arm.

**V :** And I said : "Now I have begun. This change is from the right hand of the Most High".

**V :** I remembered the works of the LORD, for I shall remember Your wonders from the beginning.

**LENT I, III EVENING :** *(Psalm 60) Tone 8*

O LORD, You have given an inheritance * to those who fear Your name.

**V :** From the ends of the earth have I cried out to You.

**V :** I shall be sheltered in the shelter of Your wings.

**V :** And so, I shall chant to Your Name unto the ages of ages.

**LENT II, IV EVENING :** *(Psalm 68) Tone 8*

Do not turn away Your Face from Your child, for I am oppressed ; listen to me swiftly. * Give heed to my soul, and redeem it

**V :** Your salvation, O God, has supported me.

**V :** Let the poor see it, and let them be glad.

**V :** Seek out God, and your soul shall live.

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*At a simple service, we immediately read or sing "Deem us worthy".*

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**READINGS**

*When there are readings prescribed, then the Deacon introduces them, each :*

**Deacon :** Wisdom.
**Reader :** The reading from _____.
**Deacon :** Let us attend.
**Reader :** *Intones the reading, making an inflection at the end to indicate the ending.*

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**AUGMENTED LITANY**

*Used at this time only on days of Polyelei, Vigil rank, 1, and 13 September.*

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**DEEM US WORTHY**

**Readers :** Deem us worthy, O Lord, of guarding us sinless this evening. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised, and glorified be Your Name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.[15] Blessed are You, O Lord, make me to understand your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One, illumine me with Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever ; O disregard not the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Readers :** Amen.

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**EVENING LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

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

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[15] *Or :* "Law"

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.
**Deacon :** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.
**Response :** Lord, have mercy.
**Deacon :** That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.
**Response :** Grant this, O Lord. (*and so, after each petition*)
An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls, and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.
Pardon, and remission of our sins, and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.
All things that are good, and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord
That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace, and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.
A Christian ending to our life – painless, blameless, and peaceful ; and a good defence before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.
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.
**Response :** To You, O Lord.
**Presbyter :** For You are a good God, O Lover of Man, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
**Response :** Amen.
**Presbyter :** Peace be to all.
**Response :** And to your spirit.
**Deacon :** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.
**Response :** To You, O Lord.
(*and the presbyter says the prayer of the bowing of heads*)
**Presbyter :** Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
**Response :** Amen.

–*And we begin the* APOSTIKHA*, unless there be first the* LITIYA*.*



**LITANY OF ROGATION (*Litiya*)**

*–At Litiya, we sing first the first stikh of the temple, unless it is a Great Feast, and then the proper verses, as we proceed to the Narthex or appointed place. Then the deacon begins :*

**Deacon :** O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Your rich mercies ; through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Theotokos, and Ever-virgin Mary ; by the protection of the precious and Life-giving Cross ; through the protection of the honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven ; through the supplications of the honourable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord John (*and if a prophet be commemorated, add the name*) ; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles (*and if an apostle be commemorated, add the name*) ; of the Holy Equals to the Apostles : of Methodius and Cyril, the Teachers of the Slavs, *of the Prince Vladimir, of the Princess Ol'ga, of Nina of Georgia, of Nicholas, enlightener of Japan,* of Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, enlightener of the Aleuts and North America, of the righteous presbyter Jacob, enlightener of the Alelut, Yupik and Athabascan peoples of Alaska *;* of our Fathers amongst the saints, hierarchs and ecumenical Teachers : Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom, *of Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons, and Cyprian of Carthage* ; of our fathers amongst the saints, the hierarchs : Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the wonderworker, *of Leo and Gregory of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, of Patrick of Ireland, the confessor, of Raphael of Brooklyn, of Arseny of Winnipeg, enlightener of Canada* ; *of our fathers amongst the saints, the patriarchs and metropolitans of Moscow: Michael, Peter, Alexis, Cyprian, Jonah, Philip, Macary, Dmitri, Metrophan, Tikhon, Theodosius, Joasaph, Germogen, Pitirim,* of Tikhon, the new confessor, and enlightener of North America *; of Clement of Ochrid, Sava of Serbia, of Euthemius of Trnovo ; of our fathers amongst the saints, the metropolitans of Kiev : Michael, Ilarion, Ivan, Constantine, Maxim, Peter, Aleksy, Cyprian, Photius, Macarius, the hieromartyrs Alexander, and Vladimir ; of Ephrem of Pereaslav, and Demetrius of Rostov ;* of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs : of the Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon, of The Great Martyrs Dimitirius of Thessalonika, of Catherine and Barbara ; of the Priestmartyrs Juvenaly, Alexander and John ; of the Martyr Peter (Chunagnac) the Aleut ; of the righteous presbyter Alexis

of Wilkes-Barre, the new confessor ; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers : Anthony and Theodosius of the Caves in Kiev, of Sergius of Radonzh, Job of Pochaev, Seraphim of Sarov, *Macarius of Corinth, Nectarios of Aigina, Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain, Cosmas the Aitolian ;* of our monastic father Herman, elder and wonderworker of Alaska and all America ; of the righteous Matushka Olga of Kweithluk ; of *n*, patron of this holy Temple ; of *n*, whose memory we commemorate today ; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim, and Anna ; and of all the saints ; hear us sinners who pray unto You, and have mercy on us.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. (*twelve or forty times*)

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for our Metropolitan, the Most Blessed *n* ; for our bishop, the (*Most*)Right Reverend *n*, (*Arch*)Bishop of Ottawa and all Canada ; (*in a monastery : for our father/mother n , abbot/abbess of this holy monastery* ;) and for all our *brotherhood* in Christ ; and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and weary in well-doing, and in need of God's mercies and help ; for the protection of this *city* (*town, village, countryside, holy monastery/abode*), and for those who dwell therein ; for the peace and quietness of the whole world ; for the good estate of the holy Churches of God ; for the salvation and help of our *fathers and brethren* who with diligence and the fear of God labour and serve ; for those who are gone away and those who are abroad ; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity ; for the repose, refreshment and blessed memory and forgiveness of sins of all of our *fathers and brethren*, the Orthodox gone to rest before us, who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord ; for the rescue of captives ; for our brethren who are serving ; and for all who serve and have served in this holy *temple*, let us say :

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. (*twelve or thirty times*)

**Deacon :** Again we pray that He will keep this *city* (*town, village, countryside*), and this holy *temple* (*church, monastery*), and every city and country from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, food, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, from civil war, and from sudden death, that our good God, who loves Man, will be gracious, favourable and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us, and all sickness, and may rescue us from His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. (*twelve or thirty times*)

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** Hear us, O God, our saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea, *and in the air* ; and be gracious, be gracious , O Master, unto us sinners, and have mercy on us ; for You are a merciful God, O Lover of Man, and unto You do we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**Presbyter :** Peace be to all.

**Response :** And to your spirit.

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

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

**Presbyter :** O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross ; (*and other saints, as he will, as above*) ; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints ; make our prayer acceptable, grant us forgiveness of our trespasses, shelter us under the shelter of Your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, give peace to our life, O Lord, have mercy on us and on Your world, and save our souls, for You are good, and You love Man.

**Response :** Amen.

*Then, as we re-enter the Temple, we sing the Apostikha.*



## APOSTIKHA

**Reader :** The Apostikha in the ___ tone.

**✢SUNDAY to THURSDAY :** (*daily*)

**Readers :** FIRST Apostikha Verse (*from Octoechos or Triodion*)

**Reader :** I have raised my eyes to You, that dwell in Heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the hand-maiden look to the hands of her mistress; so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until He have compassion on us. (*Psalm 122*)

**Readers :** SECOND Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** Have mercy, O LORD, have mercy on us, for we have been much filled with contempt. Too much has our soul been filled – a reproach to the prosperous, and contempt to the proud.

**Readers :** THIRD Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Readers :** *sing the proper Stikh (if provided ; otherwise, the reader continues :)*

**Reader :** (In the ___ [*same*] tone :)
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Readers :** The Theotokos-Hymn

**✢FRIDAY EVENING :** (*except in Pascha*)

**Reader :** The Apostikha in the ___ tone.

**Readers :** FIRST Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** Blessed are those whom You have chosen and taken, O Lord.

**Readers :** SECOND Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** Their souls shall dwell with the blessed.

**Readaers :** THIRD Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Readers :** *sing the proper Stikh, if provided*

**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Readers :** Theotokos-Hymn

**✢SATURDAY EVENING :** (*and Friday in Pascha*)

**Reader :** The Apostikha in the ___ tone.

**Readers :** FIRST Apostikha Verse *of the Resurrection* (*Psalm 92*)

**Reader :** The LORD has established His reign, He has put on splendour.

**Readers :** SECOND Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** He made the world firm so that it may not be shaken.

**Readers :** THIRD Apostikha Verse

**Reader :** Sanctification becomes Your house, O LORD, unto length of days.
**Readers :** FOURTH Apostikha Verse
**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
**Readers :** *sing the proper Stikh, if provided*
**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
**Reader :** Theotokos-Hymn

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**✢COMMEMORATION OF A SAINT :**

**Readers :** FIRST Apostikha Verse (*Psalm 91*)
**Reader :** The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, even as the cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.
**Readers :** SECOND Apostikha Verse
**v :** Planted in the house of the LORD, they shall flourish in the courts of our God.
**Readers :** THIRD Apostikha Verse
**v :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
**Reader :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
**Readers :** *Sing the proper Stikh, if provided*
**Reader :** In the ___ [*same*] tone :
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
**Readers :** Theotokos-Hymn

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*After the Apostikha, we immediately sing, or read the Canticle of Saint Symeon :*

**CANTICLE OF SAINT SYMEON** (*Tone 6*)

**Readers :** Now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, O Master, in accordance with Your word ; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples – a light of revelation for the nations, and the glory of Your people Israel.

**TRISAGION PRAYERS**

**Reader :** Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(*three times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your 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 bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

*And we sing the Dismissal Tropar(s)*
*– If it be Great Lent, see the following box instead of these.*

**TROPARS(S)**

*–If it be a simple service, we sing the proper Tropar once ; then Glory : now, and ever ; and the Theotokos-Hymn in the same tone as the Tropar (from the general Theotokos-Hymns in the appendices).*
*–If it be SundayVigil, we sing the Tropar to the Theotokos in Tone 4 :*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, Full of Grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb ; for you have borne the salvation of our souls.

*–If it be one of the Great Feast-days, then we sing the Tropar of the feast three times, followed by the blessing of loaves.*
*–If it be another Feast-day, not on Sunday, then we sing the Tropar of the feast twice, and "Rejoice O Virgin …" once ; but if it be another Feast-day on a Sunday, then we sing "Rejoice O Virgin …" twice, and the Tropar of the feast once.*

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

**Theotokos-Hymn**

*–If it be Lent, we sing these tropars :*

**Readers :** Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb ; for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all, that we may be rescued from our iniquities ; for to you is given Grace to intercede for us.
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Make entreaty for us, O Holy Apostles, and all the saints, that we may be rescued from dangers, and afflictions, for we have acquired you as fervent advocates before the Saviour.
Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos. Do not disregard our entreaties in adversity ; but redeem us from dangers, O only pure, and only blessed one.

*and then, we immediately conclude thus :*

**Reader :** Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.
In the Name of the Lord, Master bless.

**Presbyter :** Christ our God, He Who Is, is blessed, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**Reader :** O Heavenly King, make firm the Orthodox Christians (*believing kings*), make firm the Faith, make the nations meek, give peace to the world, preserve this holy *temple*, and place our departed *fathers, and brethren* in the tents of the righteous. Accept us in repentance, and confession, for You are good, and You love Man.

**Response :** Amen.

*And the Prayer of Saint Ephrem*br*, with prostrations, bows, and repetition :*

**Response :** O Lord, and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of sloth, busyness [*despondency [alt.]*], lust of power, and idle talk ; but rather, favour Your servant with the spirit of soberness, lowliness, endurance, and love ; Yea, O Lord, and King, grant me to see my own falls, and not to condemn my *brother*, for blessed are You, unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**Reader :** Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
( *three times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us ; O Lord, cleanse us from our sins ; O Master, pardon our iniquities ; O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your 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 bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

**Presbyter :** For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**Reader :** Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

**Reader :** O all-holy Trinity, one Power in essence, one Kingdom undivided, and Cause of all good things, graciously turn also to me, the sinner. Strengthen, and give understanding in my heart, and purge out all my profanity. Illumine my reasoning, that I may glorify You, hymn You, worship You, saying, One is Holy, One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth, and forevermore.

(*three times*)

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

*And then we read Psalm 33,*
*after which we read Psalm 144, while proceeding to the Refectory.*

**Deacon :** Wisdom.

**Response :** It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed, and most pure, and the Mother of our God.

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

**Response :** More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption, you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

**Presbyter :** Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, and our hope, glory be to You.

**Response :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Master (*Father*) bless.

**Presbyter :** *pronounces the dismissal.*

**Response :** Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*–If it be a lenten service during the Nativity Fast or the Apostles' Fast, after the Prayer of Saint Ephrem, the Trisagion, and the presbyter's exclamation, the reader says "Lord, have mercy" twelve times, Glory, Now, and ever, and the dismissal.*

*For Vigil, and other services, see the following :*

*–If it be Vigil, then after the Tropars, we continue with the Blessing of Loaves, and the conclusion.*

**BLESSING OF LOAVES**

*The Tropar is sung three times, during which the loaves, wheat, wine, and oil are censed three times from four sides. After the third singing of the Tropar, we bless :*

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

**Response :** Lord, have mercy.

**Presbyter :** O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness, and with them satisfied the five thousand, Yourself now bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this *city*, and in all Your world, and sanctify all the Faithful who shall partake of them ;
for it is You, O Christ our God, who bless, and sanctify all things ; and unto You, we send up glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth, and forevermore.
(*three times*)

*Then we read or sing the following :*

**Readers :** **PSALM 33:1-10**

I shall bless the LORD at all times ; His praise shall always be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praising ; let the meek hear, and be glad. Magnify the Lord with me, and as one, let us exalt His Name. I sought out the Lord, and He listened to me, and from all my afflictions He rescued me. Come near to Him, and be illumined, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor one cried out, and the Lord heard him, and from all his afflictions He saved him. An angel of the Lord shall encamp round about those fearing Him, and He will rescue them. O taste, and see that the Lord is gracious ; blessed is the man who hopes on Him. Fear the Lord, all you His holy ones, for there is no want for those fearing Him. The rich have become poor and hungry, but those seeking out the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

**Presbyter :** The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His Grace, and love towards Man, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

*If it be not a vigil, then see the following :*

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*–If it be not Vigil, we begin the Augmented Litany :*

**AUGMENTED LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION** [16]

**Deacon :** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hearken, and have mercy.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(*and so, after each petition*)

**Deacon :** Again, we pray for our Metropolitan __*n*__, for our father, (*Arch*)Bishop __*n*__, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.
Again, we pray for this country, and all who govern it, for all civil authorities, and for the public service.
*Again, we pray for our Abbot/Abbess __n__, for our brethren, the priests, the priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.*
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*,[17] the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.
Again, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God __*n*__, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

*Sometimes, special petitions are added here.*

Again, we pray for those who bring offerings, and do good works in this holy, and all- venerable *temple* ; for those who labour, and those who sing ; and for all the people here present, who await Your great, and rich mercy.

**Presbyter :** For You are a merciful God, and love Man, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

*In Odinary Time, not at Vigil*

**Deacon :** Wisdom.

**Response :** Master (*Father*) bless.

**Presbyter :** Christ our God, He Who Is, is blessed, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Response :** Amen.

**Readers :** Make firm, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith, and Orthodox Christians, unto the ages of ages.

*And if desired, this prayer of Saint Basil the Great may be added here:*

**Presbyter :** Blessed are You, O Lord Almighty, who enlighten the day with the light of the sun, and made the night luminous with the lustre of fire. Since You have designed us to pass through the length of the day,

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[16] If there be no presbyter, then instead of reading the "Lord have mercies" for this litany, the Intercession for the Living, and the Departed may be instead read.

[17] Refers to a monastic community : "Mothers and sisters," for a female community, but "brothers and sisters" for a non-monastic community.

and to approach the coming of night, hearken to our supplication, and to the entreaty of all Your people, and pardon all our voluntary, and involuntary transgressions. Accept our evening supplications, and send down an abundance of Your mercy, and of Your compassion on Your inheritance. Surround us all with a wall of Your holy angels. Arm us with the weapon of righteousness. Make a fence of Your truth around us. Preserve us with Your might, rescue us from every attack, and every deceit of the enemy. Deem us worthy also that the present evening together with the coming night may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, free of temptations, and bad visions, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos, and of all Your saints who have pleased You from eternity.

**Response :** Amen.

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

**Response :** More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

**Presbyter :** Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, and our Hope, glory be to You.

**Response :** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.[18]
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Master (*Father*) bless.

**Presbyter :** *pronounces the dismissal of the day*

**Response :** Amen.

*If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :*

**Reader :** O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

**Response :** Amen.

**Response :** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.[19]

[**THE END OF VESPERS**]

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[18] But from Pascha to Ascension we sing instead the Paschal Tropar three times.

[19] But from Pascha to Ascension we sing instead the Paschal Tropar three times.
Afterwards, we sing in **Tone 8** :

And unto us He has given eternal life.
Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day.

# APPENDIX :

## VESPER PRAYERS OF LIGHT

*With head uncovered, the presbyter says these prayers of light :*

**1.** O LORD, COMPASSIONATE, AND MERCIFUL, LONG–SUFFERING, AND PLENTEOUS IN MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER, AND ATTEND TO THE VOICE OF OUR SUPPLICATION. WORK UPON US A SIGN FOR GOOD. LEAD US IN YOUR WAY, THAT WE MAY WALK IN YOUR TRUTH. GLADDEN OUR HEARTS, THAT WE MAY FEAR YOUR HOLY NAME ; FOR YOU ARE GREAT, AND WORK WONDERS. YOU ALONE ARE GOD, AND AMONGST THE GODS THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU, O LORD, STRONG IN MERCY, GRACIOUS IN MIGHT, TO HELP, AND TO COMFORT, AND TO SAVE ALL THOSE, WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOUR HOLY NAME ;
FOR UNTO YOU ARE DUE ALL GLORY, HONOUR, AND WORSHIP, TO THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**2.** O LORD, DO NOT REBUKE US IN YOUR ANGER, NOR CHASTEN US IN YOUR WRATH ; BUT DEAL WITH US, ACCORDING TO YOUR MERCY, O PHYSICIAN, AND HEALER OF OUR SOULS. GUIDE US TO THE HAVEN OF YOUR WILL. ENLIGHTEN THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR TRUTH. GRANT THAT THE REMAINDER OF THIS DAY, AND THE WHOLE TIME OF OUR LIFE MAY BE PEACEFUL, AND SINLESS, THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS, AND OF ALL THE SAINTS ;
FOR YOURS IS THE MAJESTY ; AND YOURS ARE THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**3.** O LORD OUR GOD, REMEMBER US, SINNERS, YOUR SINFUL, AND UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS, WHEN WE CALL UPON YOUR HOLY NAME. PUT US NOT TO SHAME, IN OUR EXPECTATION OF YOUR MERCY ; BUT GRANT US, O LORD, ALL OUR PETITIONS, WHICH ARE UNTO SALVATION. ENABLE US TO LOVE YOU, TO FEAR YOU WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, AND TO DO YOUR WILL IN ALL THINGS ;
FOR YOU ARE A GOOD GOD, AND THE LOVER OF MAN, AND UNTO YOU WE SEND UP GLORY, TO THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**4.** O LORD, WHO ARE HYMNED BY THE HOLY POWERS WITH NEVER–SILENT HYMNS, AND NEVER-CEASING SONGS OF PRAISE TO YOUR GLORY, FILL OUR MOUTHS WITH YOUR PRAISE, THAT WE MAY EXTOL YOUR HOLY NAME. GRANT UNTO US PART, AND INHERITANCE, WITH ALL THOSE WHO FEAR YOU IN TRUTH, AND KEEP YOUR COMMANDMENTS, THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS, AND OF ALL YOUR SAINTS ;
FOR UNTO YOU ARE DUE ALL GLORY, HONOUR, AND WORSHIP, TO THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**5.** O LORD, OUR GOD, YOU UPHOLD ALL THINGS IN THE ALL-PURE HOLLOW OF YOUR HAND. YOU ARE PATIENT WITH US ALL, AND YOU TURN AWAY AT OUR WICKEDNESSES. REMEMBER YOUR COMPASSION, AND YOUR MERCY. VISIT US WITH YOUR LOVINGKINDNESS. GRANT THAT THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THIS DAY WE MAY, BY YOUR GRACE, AVOID THE SUNDRY SUBTLE SNARES OF THE EVIL ONE. BY THE GRACE OF YOUR ALL-HOLY SPIRIT, PRESERVE OUR LIVES UNASSAILED ;
THROUGH THE MERCY, AND LOVE TOWARDS MAN, OF YOUR ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON, WITH WHOM YOU ARE BLESSED, TOGETHER WITH YOUR ALL-HOLY, GOOD, AND LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**6.** O GOD, GREAT, AND WONDERFUL, WITH UNSPEAKABLE GOODNESS, AND RICH PROVIDENCE YOU ORDER ALL THINGS, AND YOU BESTOW UPON US THE GOOD THINGS OF THIS EARTH. YOU HAVE GIVEN US A PLEDGE OF THE PROMISED KINGDOM, THROUGH THE GOOD THINGS ALREADY BESTOWED UPON US. YOU HAVE MADE US SHUN ALL EVIL DURING THAT PART OF THE DAY, WHICH IS PAST. GRANT THAT WE MAY ALSO FULFIL THE REMAINDER OF THIS DAY BLAMELESSLY BEFORE YOUR HOLY GLORY, AND HYMN YOU, THE ONLY GOOD ONE, OUR GOD, AND THE LOVER OF MAN ;
FOR YOU ARE OUR GOD, AND UNTO YOU WE SEND UP GLORY, T O THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**7.** O GOD, GREAT, AND WONDERFUL, YOU ALONE HAVE IMMORTALITY, AND YOU DWELL IN LIGHT UNAPPROACHABLE. YOU HAVE FASHIONED ALL CREATION IN WISDOM. YOU HAVE DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS, AND YOU HAVE APPOINTED THE SUN TO RULE THE DAY, AND THE MOON AND THE STARS TO RULE THE NIGHT. YOU HAVE ENABLED US SINNERS, AT THIS PRESENT HOUR ALSO, TO COME BEFORE YOUR PRESENCE CONFESSING OUR FAITH, AND TO OFFER OUR EVENING PRAISE TO YOU. YOURSELF, O LORD, AND LOVER OF MAN, DIRECT OUR PRAYER AS INCENSE TOWARDS YOU, AS AN ODOUR OF SWEET FRAGRANCE. GRANT THAT WE MAY PASS THIS PRESENT EVENING, AND THE COMING NIGHT, IN PEACE. CLOTHE US IN THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT. RESCUE US FROM THE FEAR OF THE NIGHT, AND FROM EVERYTHING THAT WALKS IN DARKNESS. GRANT THAT THE SLEEP, WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN FOR THE REPOSE OF OUR WEAKNESS, MAY BE FREE FROM EVERY PHANTASY OF THE DEVIL. YEA, O MASTER, GIVER OF ALL GOOD THINGS, MAY WE BE MOVED TO TENDERHEARTEDNESS, EVEN ON OUR BEDS, AND REMEMBER YOUR HOLY NAME IN THE NIGHT. ENLIGHTENED BY MEDITATION ON YOUR COMMANDMENTS, MAY WE RISE UP IN JOYFULNESS OF SOUL TO GLORIFY YOUR GOODNESS, AND TO OFFER UP PRAYERS, AND SUPPLICATIONS TO YOUR TENDER LOVE FOR OUR OWN SINS, AND FOR THOSE OF ALL YOUR PEOPLE. VISIT THEM IN YOUR MERCY, THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS ;
FOR YOU ARE A GOOD GOD, AND THE LOVER OF MAN, AND UNTO YOU WE SEND UP GLORY, TO THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN.

**[END OF VESPER PRAYERS]**

**[END OF VESPER SERVICES]**