



GREAT VESPERS

Fathers of the First Six Councils

- Tone 3

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Vespers Opening Psalm

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! Blessed are Thou, blessed art Thou, O Lord! How glorious are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. Who hast created - who hast created 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! (3)

Great Litany is chanted

Kathisma

Blessed is the Man (Psalm 1)

Blessed is the man, who walks not in the council of the wicked. *Refrain:*
Alleluia! (3)

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will perish. *Refrain*

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling! *Refrain*

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him! *Refrain*

Arise, O Lord, save me O my God! *Refrain*

Salvation belongs to the Lord! Thy blessing be upon Thy people! *Refrain*

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

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *Refrain*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to the Thee, O God! (2)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to the Thee, O God! Glory to Thee! (1)

Little Litany is chanted

Lord, I Call

Tone 3

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
LO 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!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison * that I may give thanks unto Thy name!*

By Thy cross, O Christ our Saviour, death's dominion hath been shattered, the devil's delusion, destroyed: the race of man, being saved by faith, always offereth Thee a song.

*v. (9) The righteous shall compass me about * Until Thou shalt deal bountifully with me*

All hath been enlightened by Thy resurrection, O Lord; paradise hath been opened again: all creation, praising Thee, always offereth Thee a song.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I have cried unto Thee, O Lord. * Lord, hear my voice!*

I glorify the power of the Father, and the Son, and praise the authority of the Holy Spirit, the undivided, uncreated Godhead, the consubstantial Trinity, which reigneth forever.

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplications!*

We bow down, in worship, before Thy precious cross, O Christ; and we glorify, and praise, Thy resurrection: for, by Thy wounds, we have all been healed.

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? * But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

(Tone 6) From the womb before the morning star, / Thou wast begotten of the Father without mother before the ages: / yet Arius called Thee a creature, / refusing to glorify Thee as God, / with audacity, mindlessly confusing Thee, the Creator, with a creature, / laying up for himself fuel for the everlasting fire; / but the Council in Nicæa / proclaimed Thee to be the Son of God, O Lord, // equally enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

*v. (5) For Thy name's sake I have patiently waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited patiently for Thy word * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

Repeat: From the womb before the morning star...

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope on the Lord!*

O honoured Fathers, / ye skilfully stitched together the garment of Christ, / which had been divided, and torn apart, by barking dogs; / ye found it unbearable to see His nakedness; / as, of old, Shem and Japheth could not bear to see the nakedness of their father; / ye put to shame the wretchedness of Arius / and those who agreed with him, // and who professed the madness that beareth his name.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption * and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

Repeat: O honoured Fathers ...

*v. (2) O Praise the Lord, all ye nations! * Praise Him, all ye peoples!*

The Macedónians and Nestórians, / the Eutýchians and Dióscorenes, / the Appolinárians, Sabéllians, and Sevérians, / who were revealed as oppressive wolves in sheep's skins, / ye, as true shepherds, drove far away from the Saviour's flock, / having stripped the thrice-wretched ones of their sheep's skins; // wherefore, we call you blessèd, O holy Fathers.

*v. (1) For His merciful kindness is great towards us * and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

Repeat: The Macedónians and Nestórians...

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

(Tone 6) Let us, to-day, praise the God-bearing fathers, / the mystical clarions of the Spirit, / which sound forth, in the midst of the Church, / the melodious hymn of theology / unto the one Trinity, / the immutable essence and Godhead, / the casters down of Arius, / and champions of the Orthodox, / who ever pray to the Lord // that our souls find mercy.

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

(Tone 3) How can we not wonder at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted mother? For, without receiving the touch of man, thou gavest birth to a son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin; the Son, born of the Father before eternity, was born of thee at the fulness of time, O honoured Lady; He underwent no mingling, no change, no division, but preserved the fulness of each nature; entreat Him, O Lady, and Virgin, and mother, to save the souls of them that, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee to be the Theotokos.

Gladsome Light



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 art worthy, Thou art worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, and Giver of Life. Therefore, the world glorifies Thee!

Evening Prokeimenon

Wisdom! Let us Attend! The Prokeimenon in the 6th tone: The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

(refrain) **The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty**

The Lord is robed with strength and has gird Himself! *(refrain)*

For He hath made the world so sure, that it shall not be moved. *(refrain)*

Holiness becometh Thine house, O Lord, unto length of days! *(refrain)*

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

Litany of Fervent Supplication is chanted

Vouchsafe, O Lord

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 set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes! Thy mercy, O Lord, 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

Litany of Supplication is chanted
Prayer at the Bowing of Heads

Aposticha

(Tone 3) The sun was darkened by Thy passion, O Christ; but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy resurrection; accept our evening song, O lover of man.

*v. The Lord is King * He is robed in majesty!*

Thy life-bearing resurrection, O Lord, enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation; delivered from Adam's curse, we sing: 'O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee'.

*v. For He hath established the world *so that it shall never be moved.*

Thou art the changeless God, Who, suffering in the flesh, was changed; creation could not endure seeing Thee on the cross; it was filled with fear, while praising Thy patience: by descending to hell, and rising on the third day, Thou hast granted, to the world, life and great mercy.

*v. Holiness befitteth Thy house * O Lord, forever!*

Thou didst endure death, O Christ, to deliver the race of men from death: Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, raising, with Thyself, them that knew Thee as God: and enlightening the world; glory to Thee.

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

(Tone 4) This day, let us, the assemblies of the Orthodox, / faithfully acting in accordance with piety, / the prayerful memory of the God-bearing fathers / who, in the splendid city of Nicæa, / assembled from throughout all the world; / for, with pious resolve, they cast down the godless dogma of the fearsome Arius, / and, in Council, expelled him from the Catholic Church, / and, in their Symbol of Faith, / have clearly taught all to confess the Son of God / to be consubstantial, equally eternal, and existent from before the ages, / setting this forth precisely and devoutly; / wherefore, following their divine dogmas, and believing them with certainty, / we worship the Trinity one in essence: // the Son and the Holy Spirit, together with the Father, in one Godhead.

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

(Tone 4) Look on the entreaties of thy servants, O Blameless One! Stop all the terrible attacks against us, freeing us from every affliction, for we have only thee as our sure and firm anchor! Do not let us be put to shame, O Lady, for we call on thee for our intercession! Hasten to pray for those who call in faith: "Rejoice, O Lady, Help of all:// the Joy and Shelter and Salvation of our souls!"

St. Symeon's Prayer

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 enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

Trisagion (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory 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. 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. (3)

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

ur Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Troparia

(Tone 3) Let the heavens rejoice; let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shewn strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead; He hath delivered us from the depths-of-hell, and hath granted, unto the world, great mercy.

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

(Tone 8) Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, / Who hast established our fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, / and, through them, hast guided us all to the true Faith: // O most-merciful One, glory to Thee.

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

(Tone 8) For our sake, Thou was born of the Virgin, And didst endure crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death, Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of Thy hand! Reveal Thy love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the Theotokos praying for us, //And save the despairing people, O our Saviour!

**Dismissal
Glory to God!**

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