

# GREAT VESPERS

*The Honourable Chains of the Holy  
and All-praised Apostle Peter*

*Tone 5*

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## Vespers Opening Psalm

*Psalm 104*

**B**less 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)*

**B**lessed 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 5

**L**ord 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, 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 precious cross, O Christ, Thou hast put the devil to shame; by Thy resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin, and saved us from the gates of death: we glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter, in order to grant resurrection to the human race: the princes of hell were frightened by this; for the gates-of-sorrow were lifted; Christ, the King of glory, had entered, saying, to them-in-chains, 'Go forth': and, to them-in-darkness, 'Come to the light'.

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

O great wonder, the Creator-of-the-invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man, and rose again, immortal; come, O sons of nations; let us worship Him: for, delivered from error by His compassion, we have learned to sing of one-God-in-three-persons.

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

We offer Thee our evening worship, O never-setting light, Who camest, in these last days, to the world, in the flesh, Who, even, descendedst to hell, to dispel its darkness, Who hast revealed the light-of-resurrection to the nations: glory to Thee, O Lord, and giver-of-light.

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

We glorify the leader of our salvation by His Resurrection from the dead, the world was saved from deceit. The assembly of angels rejoices, as the deceit of demons is overthrown. Fallen Adam rises, as the devil falls.

*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.*

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones: "Hide the rising of Christ take money as say: 'The Body was stolen from the Tomb while we were asleep.'" But Who has heard of a Body being stolen, a Body embalmed naked, with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb? Do not be deceived O Jews, study the works of the prophets and understand, Christ is the Redeemer of the world and All Powerful.

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

(Tone 4) Thou hast bound falsehood, \* bound to the Lord, \* and imprisoned, O apostle, in a dungeon; \* wherefore now, lovingly, we honour thee, \* and, with faith, kiss thy chains: \* from whence, drawing forth health of body, \* and salvation of soul, \* indebted, we praise thee, who hast beheld God, \*\* and conversed with them-without-flesh.

*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: Thou hast bound falsehood...*

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

Through thee, they receive understanding \* that are held fast in ignorance, \* the races of the gentiles, which were widely scattered in the beginning, \* the image whereof was shewn, let down from on high, \* as a vessel wherein was contained \* every living creature, O apostle. \* Wherefore now, every one of age glorifieth thee, worshipping \* the chains that thou hast borne, \*\* for Christ, most diligently.

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

He Whom thou hast denied when He was condemned \* thou hast hymned when He rose from the dead, O apostle: \* and thou hast preached, \* to the ends of the earth, \* the God and man, \* Who, in His great goodness, entered into fellowship with men. \* Wherefore now, lovingly, we bless thee, O Peter, \* worshipping the chains that thou hast borne, \*\* for Christ, O most-glorious one.

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

*(Tone 6)* Today, the foundation of the Church, / Peter, the rock of faith, / appointeth his honourable chains for our souls' piety. / Come, ye all, kissing them, / with hymns of praise, let us crown him: / 'Rejoice, fervent champion of faith, / who, with ardent knowledge, confessed Christ, / and the Son of God with much boldness: / rejoice, joy of all the inhabited world, / and keeper of the keys of the kingdom of heaven, / who bestowest grace upon them that, lovingly, honour thee, / and kiss thine honourable chains with longing': / for, standing before the throne of Christ, the king of all, / thou makest prayers for us, // who celebrate thy memory.

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

*(Tone 5)* In the Red Sea of old, a type of the Virgin-bride was prefigured: there, Moses divided the waters: here, Gabriel assisted in the miracle; there, Israel crossed the sea without getting wet: here, the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed; after Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable: after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a virgin; O ever-existing God, Who appearedst as man, O Lord, have mercy on us.

### 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

**V**ouchsafe, 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 5)* We magnify Thee in songs of praise, O incarnate Christ and Saviour: by accepting the cross, and death, for our sake, as the Lord, and lover of man, Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

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

By being pierced-in-the-side, O lover of man, Thou hast poured out drops of life, and salvation, for all: by accepting death-in-the-flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality: Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb, and hast resurrected us, with Thyself, in glory, as God; glory to Thee, O Lord, and lover of man.

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

Thy crucifixion, and descent into hell, are awesome, O lover of man: Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners; Thou hast opened paradise, and given it to us; grant us purification of sins, who glorify Thy resurrection-on-the-third-day: make us worthy of paradise; and save us, O lover of man.

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

For our sake, Thou didst accept death-in-the-flesh, to rise from the dead on the third day; heal us from our earthly passions; and restore us from our evil transgressions; and save us, O lover of man.

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

*(Tone 6)* Again, the fervent intercessor raiseth us up, together, to a spiritual feast, / Peter, the rock of faith, / setting, before us, his honourable chains, / as though they were most costly food, / unto the healing of infirmities, / the consolation of the sorrowful, / the harbouring of the tempest-tossed. / Come, ye all, kissing them, / Him that glorified him let us entreat: / 'At his prayers, O Christ, // save Thou our souls'.

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

Christ the Lord, my Mák-er and Re-déem-er, \* came forth from thy womb, all-hál-lowed Queen; \* and, clóth-ing Him-sélf in me, \* He de-lív-ered Ád-am from the curse of old; \* whére-fore, with név-er-sí-lent vóic-es, \* we praise thee \* as true Móth-er of God and Vír-gin; \* and, with the sal-u-tá-tion of the Án-gel, we cry ún-to thee: \* 'Hail, Lá-dy, gúard-i-an and pro-téc-tion, \*\* and sal-vá-tion of our souls'.

### **St. Symeon's Prayer**

**L**ord, 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.

## Troparion

*(Tone 5)* Let us, the faithful, praise, and worship, the Word, co-eternal with the Father, and the Spirit, born, for our salvation, from the Virgin: for He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead, by His glorious resurrection.

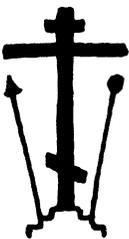
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*(Tone 4)* Without leaving Rome, thou art come to us, \* in honourable chains, which thou hast borne, \* O first-enthroned of the apostles, \* before which, bowing down, with faith, we pray: \*\* 'Through thy prayers unto God, grant us great mercy'.

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

*(Tone 4)* The mystery of all eternity, / unknown even by angels, / through thee, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth, / God incarnate by union without confusion; / He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us, / by which, He resurrected the first-created man, // saving our souls from death.

**Dismissal  
Glory to God!**

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