



THE SERVICE OF

GREAT VESPERS

for the feast of

Palm

Sunday

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Come let us worship and bow down before our King and our God.

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

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

PSALM 103 (104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honour and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. You Who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke, they fled; at the voice of Your thunder, they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place, which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth. He sends the springs into the valleys, they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them, the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches. He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and

bread which strengthens man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, where the birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high hills are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers. He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens. Man goes out to his work and to his labour until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom, You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions – This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; there is that Leviathan which You have made to play there. These all wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; 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. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom, You have made them all.

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

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

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

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

O our God and our hope, glory to You.

THE GREAT LITANY OF PEACE

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Father and Metropolitan (**name**), for the honourable priests, for the deacons in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For those who govern us and for their support in every good work, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every monastery, city and town and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For those who travel by land, by sea and by air, for the sick and suffering, for those in captivity and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed, glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, (**O most holy Theotokos, save us**) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour and worship to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.



PSALM 140 (141)

To be chanted according to the appointed tone.

- Lord I have cried to You, hear me; hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You, hear me; attend to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You: Hear me, O Lord.
- Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You; the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice; hear me, O Lord.
- Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.
- The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.
- For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up nearby the rock have their judges been.
- They shall hear my words, for they are sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered beside Hades.
- For to You, O Lord, O Lord, are my eyes, in You have I hoped; take not my soul away.
- Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling blocks of them that work iniquity.
- The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

Psalm 141 (142)

- With my voice to the Lord have I cried, with my voice to the Lord have I made my supplication.
- I will pour out before Him my supplication, my affliction before Him will I declare.
- When my spirit was fainting within me, then You knew my paths.
- In this way wherein I have walked, they hid for me a snare.
- I looked upon my right hand and beheld, and there was no one that knew me.
- Flight has failed me, and there is no one that watches out for my soul.
- I have cried to You, O Lord; I said: You are my hope, my portion are You in the land of the living.
- Attend to my supplication, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Verses

Verses

10. Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your Name.

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together;
and as we all take up Your Cross, we say: Blessed is He who
comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

9. The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You shall
reward me.

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together;
and as we all take up Your Cross, we say: Blessed is He who
comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Psalm 129 (130)

8. Out of the depths have I cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice

He that has Heaven for a throne, and the earth for a footstool, God the Father's Word and co-eternal Son, today has humbled Himself, coming to Bethany on the foal of a dumb beast. Wherefore, the children of the Hebrews, holding branches in their hands, loudly praised Him with their voices: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes, the King of Israel.

7. Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

He that has Heaven for a throne, and the earth for a footstool, God the Father's Word and co-eternal Son, today has humbled Himself, coming to Bethany on the foal of a dumb beast. Wherefore, the children of the Hebrews, holding branches in their hands, loudly praised Him with their voices: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes, the King of Israel.

6. If You should mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with You there is forgiveness.

Come, today let us also, all the New Israel, the Church of the nations, cry out with the Prophet Zacharias: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion; proclaim it, O daughter of Jerusalem; for behold, your King comes to you, meek, and having salvation, and riding upon the colt of an ass, the foal of an ass under yoke. Keep festival like the children and, holding branches in your hands, cry out in praise of Him: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes, the King of Israel.

Psalm 129 (130)

5. For Your Name's sake have I patiently waited for You, O Lord; my soul has waited patiently for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Come, today let us also, all the New Israel, the Church of the nations, cry out with the Prophet Zacharias: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion; proclaim it, O daughter of Jerusalem; for behold, your King comes to you, meek, and having salvation, and riding upon the colt of an ass, the foal of an ass under yoke. Keep festival like the children and, holding branches in your hands, cry out in praise of Him: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes, the King of Israel.

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

Prefiguring for us Your august Resurrection, O good One, by Your command You did raise from the sepulcher the lifeless Lazarus, Your friend, when he had been dead four days, and was stinking. Wherefore, in a figure, You did mount upon a colt, as it were borne upon a chariot, thus indicating the nations, O Savior. Wherefore, beloved Israel does offer You praise out of the mouths of sucklings and guileless babes that look on You, O Christ, entering into the Holy City six days before the passover.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption and He shall redeem Israel out of his iniquities.

Repeat the Above:

Prefiguring for us Your august Resurrection...

Psalm 116 (117)

2. O praise the Lord, all you nations; praise Him, all you peoples.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany; and His disciples came to Him, saying to Him: Lord, where do You will that we prepare for You to eat the Passover? And He sent them, saying: Go into the village over against you, and you shall find a man carrying a pitcher of water.

Follow him, and say to the master of the house: The Teacher says: I will keep the Passover at Your house with My disciples.

1. For He has made His mercy prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abides forever.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany; and His disciples came to Him, saying to Him: Lord, where do You will that we prepare for You to eat the Passover? And He sent them, saying: Go into the village over against you, and you shall find a man carrying a pitcher of water.

Follow him, and say to the master of the house: The Teacher says: I will keep the Passover at Your house with My disciples.

DOXASTICON FOR PALM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

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

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together; and as we all take up Your Cross, we say: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Small Entrance

The priest recites in a low voice:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In the evening, and in the morning, and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord Who loves mankind. Direct our prayer before You as incense and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For to You O Lord, O Lord, are our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. For to You are due all glory, honour and worship to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen. Bless, Master, the holy entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of Your saints, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The deacon lifts up the Censor and says:

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand aright.

People: O Joyous Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ. We that come to the setting of the sun, when we behold the evening light, praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is right for You at all times to be praised with gladsome voices, O Son of God, Giver of life. Wherefore, the world glorifies You.



THE PROKEIMENON

Deacon: The evening Prokeimenon

Saturday | Tone Six

People: The Lord is king; He is clothed with majesty. (Once)

Verse: The Lord is clothed with strength and He has girt Himself.

Verse: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

THE READINGS

On this blessed Evening, three readings are read.

First Reading

The first reading is from Genesis

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Jacob called his sons, and said: Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in days to come. Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob, and hearken to Israel your father.

Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, He couched as a lion, and as a lioness; who dares rouse Him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between His feet, until He comes to whom it belongs; and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding His foal to the vine and His ass's colt to the choice vine, He washes His garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes; His eyes shall be red with wine, and His teeth white with milk.

Second Reading

Reader: The second reading is from Zephaniah the Prophet

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Reader:

These things does the Lord say: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a Warrior Who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love; He will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth

Third Reading

Reader: The third reading is from Zachariah the Prophet

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Reader:

These things doth the Lord say: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is He, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and He shall command peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I will set your captives free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will brandish your sons, O Zion, over your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword. Then the Lord will appear over them, and His arrow goes forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet, and march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. The Lord of hosts will protect them.

We end the third reading with: "And praise be to God always."

THE EKTENIA OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us say with all our souls and with all our minds, let us say:

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray You: Hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again, we pray for our Father and Metropolitan (name).

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again, we pray for our brethren the priests, deacons, monks, nuns and all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health and salvation for the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians who reside and are present in this city, for those gathered in this holy church, for the Parish Council and for those who give, for their visitation, pardon and the remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy temple; for all our Orthodox Fathers and brethren departed this life, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Deacon: 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 chant, and for all the people here standing, who await Your great and rich mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Priest: For You are merciful, O God, and the lover of mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name to the ages. Amen. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have hoped in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Master, make me understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; despise not the works of Your hands. To You belong worship, to You belong praise, to You belong glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



THE EVENING EKTENIA

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us ask for a Christian ending to our life, peaceful, without shame or sorrow and a good defence before the fearful judgement seat of Christ.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed, glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, (**O most holy Theotokos, save us**) with all the saints; let us

entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are good, O God, and the lover of mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:

Priest: O Lord our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance. For to You the fearful Judge, Who loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the Devil, from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Your kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

APOSTICHA

For the Feast or the Saint in the recommended Tone

Rejoice and make merry, O city of Sion. Dance for joy and be glad, O Church of God. For behold, the King is come in righteousness, sitting upon a colt and praised by children. Hosanna in the highest, blessed are You Who has a multitude of compassions; have mercy on us.

Verse 1. Out of the mouths of infants and of sucklings have You perfected praise.

Today the Savior is come to the city of Jerusalem to fulfill the Scripture; and all took palm branches in their hands, and they strewed their garments before Him, knowing that it is He, our God, to Whom the Cherubim unceasingly cry: Hosanna in the highest, blessed are You Who has a multitude of compassions; have mercy on us.

Verse 2. O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Your Name in all the earth!

You Who rides upon the Cherubim, and are praised by the Seraphim, did mount upon a colt, O good One, as David foretold. And the children praised You as befits God, while the Jews lawlessly blasphemed. Your sitting on a colt foreshadowed the transformation of the unruly heathen from unbelief to faith. Glory be to You, O Christ, Who alone are merciful and the Friend of man.

DOXASTICON FOR PLAM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

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

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together; and as we all take up Your Cross, we say: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

ST. SIMEON'S PRAYER

Reader: Now let Your servant depart in peace, O Master, according to 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 Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Thrice)**

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL HYMNS

The appointed dismissal hymns of the day are chanted

APOLYTIKION OF ST. LAZARUS IN TONE ONE

In Confirming the common resurrection O Christ God, You did raise up Lazarus from the dead before your passion. Wherefore we also like the children bearing the symbols of victory, cry to You the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. LAZARUS IN TONE ONE

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

In Confirming the common resurrection O Christ God, You did raise up Lazarus from the dead before your passion. Wherefore we also like the children bearing the symbols of victory, cry to You the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

As by baptism we were buried with You, O Christ our God, so by Your Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Your, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

DISMISSAL AND THE BLESSING

The following dismissal is to replace the usual conclusion of Vespers

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy come down upon you through His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Bless, Father, in the name of the Lord.



Priest: O Christ our true God (insert the appointed characteristic phrase), through the intercessions of Your most pure, all-blameless holy Mother, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, through the petitions of the honoured, bodiless Powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honoured, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles, of the holy, glorious and triumphant Martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of Saint (name) patron of this holy church, of Saint (name) whose memory we celebrate today; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for You are good and the lover of mankind.

Priest turns towards the East saying:

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen

