

# SATURDAY VESPERS

February 20, 2021

*Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion*



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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 4*

**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!*

We glorify Thy resurrection-on-the-third-day, O Christ God, by, always, honouring Thy life-creating cross: by it, Thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man, O almighty One; by it, Thou hast renewed our entrance to heaven; for Thou art good, and the lover of man.

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

Thou didst loose the tree's verdict of disobedience, O Saviour, by being, voluntarily, nailed to the tree of the cross; by descending to hell, O almighty God, Thou didst break the bonds of death; wherefore, we adore Thy resurrection-from-the-dead, singing, in joy: 'Glory to Thee, O all-powerful Lord'.

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

Thou didst smash the gates of hell, O Lord; and, by Thy death, Thou didst demolish the kingdom of death: Thou didst deliver the race-of-men from corruption, granting, unto the world, life, incorruption, and great mercy.

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

Come, O people; let us sing of the Saviour's resurrection-on-the-third-day; by it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell: by it, we have received life, and incorruption: save us by Thy resurrection, O life-creating and almighty Saviour; glory to Thee.

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

Angels and men sing of Thy resurrection-on-the-third-day, O Saviour; by it, the ends of the earth have been illumined; by it, we have been delivered from bondage-to-the-enemy: save us by Thy resurrection, O life-creating and almighty Saviour; glory to Thee.

*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.*

Thou hast shattered the gates of brass, and destroyed the chains of death, O Christ God; Thou hast raised the fallen human race: O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to Thee.

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

O Lord, Thy begetting from the Father is timeless, and everlasting: Thine incarnation from the Virgin is beyond words, and understanding: Thy descent into hell is terrible for the devil, and his angels: Thou hast trampled on death, rising on the third day, and granting men incorruption, and great mercy.

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

*(Tone 4 – Triodion)* Brethren, let us not pray as the pharisee: | for he that exalteth himself shall be humbled; | let us humble ourselves before God, | and, with fasting, cry aloud as the publican: || ‘God be merciful to us sinners’.

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

*Repeat:* Brethren, let us not pray as the pharisee...

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

A pharisee, overcome with vainglory, | and a publican, bowed down in repentance, | came to Thee, the only master: | the one boasted, | and was deprived of blessings: | while the other kept silent, | and was counted worthy of gifts; | confirm me, O Christ our God, in these, his cries of sorrow; || for Thou lovest mankind.

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

*(Tone 8)* O almighty Lord, | I know how great is the power of tears: | for they led up Hezekiah from the gates of death; | they delivered the sinful woman | from the transgressions of many years; | they justified the publican above the pharisee: | and, with them, | I, also, pray, || ‘Have mercy upon me’.

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

*(Tone 4)* The prophet David was a father-of-the-Lord through thee, O Virgin; he foretold, in songs, the One that worked wonders in thee: ‘At Thy right hand, stood the queen’; Thy mother is the mediatrix of life, since God was freely born of her without a father: He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion; so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder, and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers; Christ, Who hath great and rich mercy, hath saved the world, O Theotokos.

### Gladsome Light



Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of Life, therefore all the world doth glorify 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.

*Evening Litany is chanted with  
the Prayer at the Bowing of Heads*

## Aposticha

*(Tone 4)* By ascending the cross, O Lord, Thou hast annulled our ancestral curse; by descending to hell, Thou hast freed the eternal prisoners, granting incorruption to the human race: wherefore, in songs, we glorify Thy life-creating and saving resurrection.

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

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful One, Thou didst shake all of creation: by being laid in the tomb, Thou hast raised them that dwelt in the tombs, granting life, and incorruption, to the human race; wherefore, in songs, we glorify Thy rising-on-the-third-day.

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

The lawless people, O Christ, handed Thee over to Pilate condemned to be crucified, thus proving themselves ungrateful before their benefactor; but, voluntarily, Thou didst endure burial: rising, by Thine own power, on the third day, as God, granting us life everlasting, and great mercy.

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

With tears, the women reached Thy tomb, searching for Thee, but not finding Thee; they wept, with wailing, and lamented: 'Woe to us, our Saviour, King of all; how wast Thou stolen? What place can hold Thy life-bearing body?'; an angel replied to them, 'Do not weep; but go; and proclaim that the Lord is risen, granting us joy, as the only compassionate One'.

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

*(Tone 5)* Mine eyes are weighed down by my transgressions; | I cannot lift them up, and see the height of heaven: || but receive me, Saviour, in repentance, as the publican; and have mercy on me.

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

*(Tone 5)* Thou art temple and gate, \* palace and throne of the King, \* O Virgin all-revered; \* through thee, my deliverer, Christ the Lord, hath come to shine on them that sleep in darkness; \* for He is the Sun of righteousness; \* and it is His will to give light to His creatures, formed, in His own image, by His hands; \* wherefore, Lady worthy of all praise, with a mother's boldness, \*\* ever intercede before Him for the salvation 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.

### Troparia

*(Tone 4)* When the women-disciples-of-the-Lord learned, from the angel, the joyous message-of-Thy-resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and, elatedly, told the apostles: 'Death is overthrown; Christ God is risen, granting, unto the world, great mercy'.

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

Wisdom! Blessed be *He Who Is*, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. **Amen. Preserve O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.**

Most holy Theotokos, save us! **More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee!**

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our only sure hope, glory to Thee! **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy! (3) Father, bless!**

**M**ay He who rose from the dead, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the Holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, ***Venerable Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia who memory we commemorate today***, and of all the saints that have shown forth in this North American land, and of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

**Amen.**