## THE ORDER OF VESPERS

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** 



Glory to you, our God, glory *to* you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.



Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** 





Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,



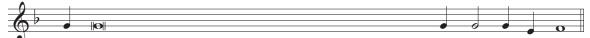
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. *A*men.

## **Call to Worship**

Each time with a reverence:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.



Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

Psalm 103 is sung. On Saturdays and feast days, the melodic version (B) may be used if so desired; or the whole text of Psalm 103 (A) may be chanted to the psalm tone.

### **Psalm 103** (A)

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Lord my God, how great *you* are,

clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in *a* robe.

#### **Priest:**

May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the prayers of (Name), (patron of the church) and of (Name), (whose feast we keep this day) and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

### **Response:**



- You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
  Above the rains you build *your* dwelling.
- You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of *the* wind;
- you make your angels spirits and your ministers a flam*ing* fire.
- You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age *to* age.
- You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak: the waters stood higher than *the* mountains.
- At your threat they took to flight; at the voice of your thunder *they* fled.
- They rose over the mountains and flowed down to the place which you had *ap*pointed.
- You set limits they might not pass lest they return to cover *the* earth.
- You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow in between *the* hills.
- They give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses quench *their* thirst.
- On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing *their* song.
- From your dwelling they water the hills; earth drinks its fill of *your* gift.
- You make the grass grow for the cattle and the plants to serve *man's* needs,
- that he may bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer *man*'s heart;
- oil, to make his face shine and bread to strengthen *man's* heart.

The trees of the Lord drink their fill, the cedars he planted *on* Lebanon;

there the birds build their nests; on the treetop the stork has *her* home.

The goats find a home on the mountains and rabbits hide in *the* rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time for *its* setting.

When you spread the darkness it is night and all the beasts of the forest *creep* forth.

The young lions roar for their prey and ask their food *from* God.

At the rising of the sun they steal away and go to rest in *their* dens.

Man goes out to his work, to labor till eve*ning* falls.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of *your* riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great *and* small.

The ships are moving there, and the monsters you made *to* play with.

All of these look to you to give them their food in *due* season.

You give it, they gather it up; you open your hand, they have *their* fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which *they* came.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

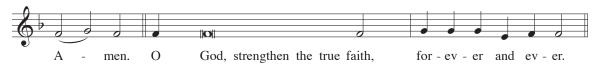
Response:

Give the bless-ing.

**Priest:** Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and

forever.

### **Response:**



**Priest:** O most holy Theotokos, save us!

### **Response:**



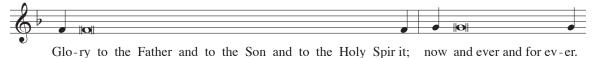
More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the sera phim,



who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni-fy.

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

### **Response:**





Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions, Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.



Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** 



The service continues with the singing of the Troparia. On a normal Saturday evening, both the Resurrectional Tone Troparion and Hymn to the Mother of God are sung.

Tone 1, page 34	Tone 5, page 81
Tone 2, page 47	Tone 6, page 91
Tone 3, page 57	Tone 7, page 10.
Tone 4, page 68	<i>Tone 8, page 111</i>

On feasts, after the Troparia, the Blessing of Bread takes place, followed by the singing of Psalm 33, which is found on page 119 in the Appendix

You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of *the* earth.

May the glory of the Lord last forever! May the Lord rejoice in *his* works!

He looks on the earth and it trembles; the mountains send forth smoke at *his* touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while *I* live.

May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in *the* Lord.

Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more. Bless the Lord, O *my* soul.

And again:

You made the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time for *its* setting.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made *them* all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Three times, each with a reverence:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, *O* God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, *O* God!

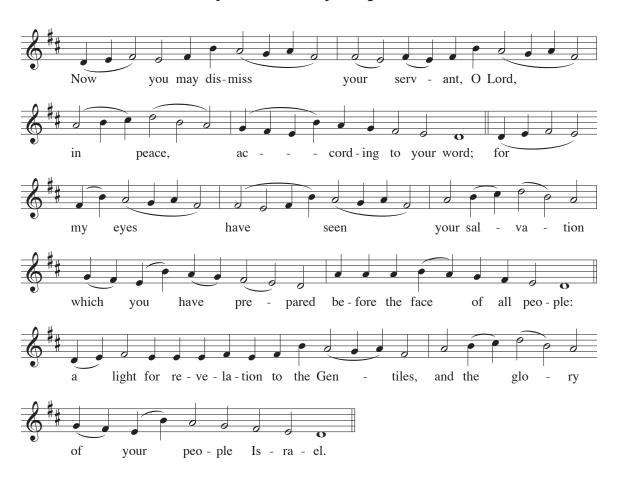
At the last, with melody:



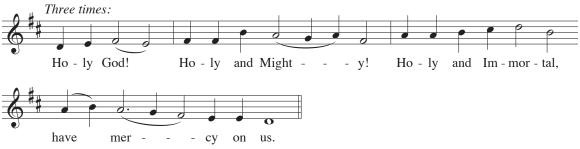
### **Psalm 103** (B)



## The Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon



## **The Trisagion Prayers**





**Priest:** ••• Peace be to all!

**Priest:** 

Response:

And to your spir - - - it.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response:

To you, O Lord.

Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



When Vespers is celebrated on the eve of a feast, the service continues with the Hymns of the Litija (found in the insert) and the Litany of the Litija, found on page 116 in the Appendix.

The service continues with the singing of the Aposticha, proper to the Tone of the Week. Sometimes there are stichera added because of the rank of a feast.

Tone 1, page 31 Tone 2, page 43 Tone 3, page 54 Tone 4, page 65 Tone 5, page 77 Tone 6, page 88 Tone 7, page 99 Tone 8, page 108



Three times, each with a reverence



# **Litany of Peace**

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



Response:

**Deacon:** 

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



**Deacon:** 

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

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear

of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop,

(Name), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the

clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to

the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us

beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a

good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech

the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious

Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us

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



**Priest:** 

Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

## **Litany of Supplication**

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

**Response:** 



Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your

grace.

Response:

2. Lord, have mer-cy.

**Deacon:** That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin,

let us beseech the Lord.

Response:

3. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and

bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:

4. Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the

Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let

us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord (4)

**Deacon:** For this city, [or: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and

for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for

peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the

captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the

Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your

grace.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious

Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:

To you, O Lord.

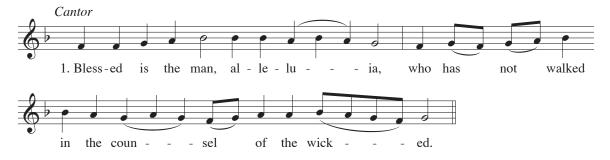
**Priest:** Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you,

and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response:

### The First Kathisma



#### Refrain:





2. For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wick - ed







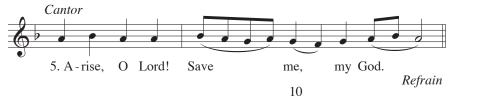
3. Serve the Lord with fear, ex - ult in him with trem - bling.

\*Refrain\*



4. Biess-ed are those who trust in inin.

Refrain





**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy,

we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:

3. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, and for our

most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop, (Name), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual

fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response:

4. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (three times, using response 4.)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and

abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the

true faith.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (three times, using response 3.)

**Priest:** For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you,

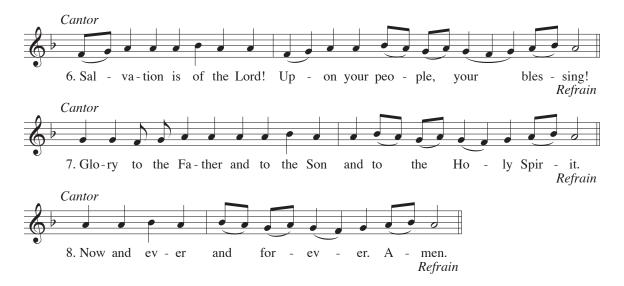
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

A - men.

## **Hymn of Glorification**





*All: Two times, each with a reverence:* 



All: Last time, with a reverence:



The service continues with the singing of the Lamp-Lighting Psalms, 140, 141, 129, and 116. The first two sections of Psalm 140 are sung to the samohlasen Tone of the Week. The remainder of the psalm verses are chanted. Near the end of Psalm 141, the cantor sings the psalm verses, and the faithful respond with seven stichera in the tone of the Resurrection, and three for the Saint who is being celebrated. The tones are on the following pages:

Tone 1, page 24	Tone 5, page 69
Tone 2, page 36	Tone 6, page 82
Tone 3, page 48	Tone 7, page 92
Tone 4, page 58	<i>Tone 8, page 102</i>

### **The Festive Entrance**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

## The Hymn of the Evening



**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Priest:** •• Peace be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

### The Evening Prokeimenon

Saturday, from Psalm 92: Tone 6 samopodoben



The Deacon chants the verses as follows:

- a. Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.
- b. The world he made firm, not to be moved.
- c. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

If Vespers is being sung on any night other than Saturday, the Prokeimenon of the day of the week is sung. Please turn to page 114 in the Appendix for these Prokeimena.

## [Readings]

## **Litany of Fervent Supplication**

**Deacon:** Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response:

1. Lord, have mer-cy.

**Deacon:** O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:

2. Lord, have mer-cy.