

Palm Sunday Great Vespers

The priest makes again three low bows before the holy Table. After kissing the holy Gospel book, he says:

DEACON: Bless Master,

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. *(low bow)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. *(low bow)*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God. *(low bow)*

PSALM 104 (103)

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, thou art very great.
Thou art clothed with honor and majesty,
robed in light as with a garment.
Thou stretchest out the heavens like a tent,
thou coverest thine upper chambers with waters,
thou makest the clouds thy chariot,
thou ridest on the wings of the wind,
thou makest thine angels spirits,
and thine ministers a flaming fire.
Thou setest the earth on its foundation,
so that it shall never be shaken.

Thou coverest it with the deep as with a garment,
the waters rise above the mountains.
At thy rebuke they flee,
At the voice of thy thunder they hasten away.
They rise up to the mountains,
they run down to the valleys,
to the place which thou hast established for them.
Thou setest a boundary that they may not pass over,
so that they may not return and cover the earth.

Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys,
the waters run down between the mountains.
They give drink to all the beasts of the field,
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
By them the birds of the sky have their home,
they sing among the rocks.
Thou dost water the mountains from thy upper chambers.
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.
Thou makest the grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to cheer the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the plain are satisfied,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted,
there the birds build their nests;
on the highest branches the stork has its home,
the high mountains are for the wild goats,
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons,
the sun knows its time for setting.
Thou hast made darkness and it was night,
in it all the wild beasts of the forest roam around.
The young lions roar for their prey,

seeking their food from God.
As the sun rises, they come together
and lie down in their dens,
people go out to their work,
and to their labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works!
In wisdom thou hast made them all:
The earth is full of thy creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living beings small and great.
There go the ships,
and the dragon thou hast made to play in it.

These all look to thee,
to give them their food in due season;
when thou givest to them,
they gather it up.
When thou openest thy hand,
they are filled with good things.
When thou turnest away thy face,
they are dismayed;
and when thou takest away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.
When thou sendest forth thy breath,
they are created,
and thou renewest the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever;
the Lord will rejoice in his works-
who looks on the earth, and makes it tremble;
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I will rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners disappear from the earth,
and the wicked exist no more!
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the Lord!

The sun knows its time for setting.
Thou hast made darkness and it was night,
O Lord, how great are thy works!
In wisdom thou hast made them 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. *(low bow)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. *(low bow)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. *(low bow)*

O our God and our hope, glory to thee.

During the preceding Psalm, the priest stands before the Altar and quietly says the seven lamp-lighting prayers:

PRIEST:

1.

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and rich in mercy, give ear to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Show us a sign of thy favor;¹ lead us in thy way, so that we may walk in thy truth. Gladden our hearts, so that we may fear thy holy name, for thou art great, and thou workest wonders.² Thou alone art God, and there is none like thee among the gods, O Lord.³ Thou art mighty in mercy, and benevolent in strength, to aid and to

¹(Ps.86<85>:17).

²(Ps. 77<76>:14).

³(Ps. 86 <85>:17).

comfort and to save all those who put their trust in thy holy name. For to thee belongs all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

2.

Lord, do not rebuke us in thine anger, or discipline us in thy wrath,⁴ but deal with us in all thy kindness,⁵ O physician and healer of our souls. Bring us to thy desired haven.⁶ Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of thy truth.⁷ And grant us that the completion of this day, and our whole life may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints. For thine is the majesty, and the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

3.

O Lord, our God, remember us sinners, thy worthless servants, when we call upon thy holy name; and let us not be put to shame in our hope⁸ of thy mercy; but grant us, Lord, all our petitions which are for our salvation. And make us worthy to love and fear thee with all our hearts, and to do thy will in all things. For thou art a good and loving God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

4.

⁴(Ps. 38<37>:1).

⁵(Ba. 2:27).

⁶(Ps. 107<106>:30).

⁷(1 Tim. 2:50).

⁸(Ps. 119<118>:116).

O Lord, who art hymned by the holy angelic powers with never-silent hymns and incessant praises, fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may ascribe majesty to thy holy name.⁹ Grant us a share and an inheritance with those who fear thee in truth, and who keep thy commandments, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints. For to thee belongs all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

5.

O Lord, our God, thou upholdest all things by thy pure and perfect hand, thou art patient with us all and mournest over our wickedness: remember thy compassions and thy mercy. Visit us with thy goodness; and grant us to complete the present day, avoiding the diverse plots of the evil one; and preserve our lives free from attack, through the grace of thine all-holy Spirit. Through the mercy and love toward mankind of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

6.

O great and wonderful God, with thine inexpressible wisdom, and thine abundant providence thou administerest all things. Thou hast bestowed on us good things on earth; thou hast given us a pledge of the promised kingdom through the good things already bestowed on us; and thou hast made us to flee from all evil during that part of this day which is past: Grant us also to complete this day without blame before thy holy glory, and to glorify thee, our God, who art the only good One, and lover of mankind. For thou art our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

7.

⁹(Si. 39:15).

O great and most high God, thou alone hast immortality and dwellest in unapproachable light.¹⁰ Thou hast made all creation in wisdom. Thou hast separated the light from the darkness.¹¹ Thou hast made the sun to rule the day, the moon and the stars to rule the night.¹² Thou hast made us sinners at this present hour worthy to come before thy face with thanksgiving and to offer to thee our evening praises. Thou thyself, O Lord, lover of mankind, direct our prayer as incense before thee,¹³ and accept it as a fragrant offering.¹⁴ Grant us to pass the present evening and the coming night in peace. Clothe us with the armor of light.¹⁵ Deliver us from the terror of the night and from the pestilence that stalks in the darkness.¹⁶ Grant us sleep, which thou hast appointed for the alleviation of our weakness, free from every imagination of the devil. Yea, O Master of all, bestower of good things, may we, being moved toward repentance on our beds, remember thy name in the night, that, illuminated by meditation on thy commandments,¹⁷ we may rise up in joyfulness of soul to glorify thy goodness, offering up prayers, and supplications to thy tender love for our sins and for those of all thy people, whom thou visitest in mercy, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos. For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

¹⁰(1 Tim .6:16)

¹¹(Gen. 1:4)

¹²(Gen. 1:16)

¹³(Ps.141<140>:2).

¹⁴(Phil 4:18).

¹⁵(Rom.13:12).

¹⁶(Ps. 91<90>:5-6).

¹⁷(Ps. 119<118>:143).

When the priest has completed the preceding prayers, and the people have finished the Psalm, the great Litany is prayed.

THE LITANY OF PEACE

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For unto thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

When the people begin the singing of the second verse of Psalm 140 (141), the priest/deacon performs the great censing.

Psalm 141 (140) in the Sixth Tone

CHOIR: O Lord, I have cried unto thee, hear thou me.
Hear thou me, O Lord. O Lord,
I have cried unto thee, hear thou me:
give ear to the voice of my supplication,
when I cry unto thee. Hear thou me, O Lord.
Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense;
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear thou me, O Lord.
Set a watch, O Lord, on my mouth,
and a guard on the door of my lips.
Incline not my heart to evil words,
to make excuses for sins.
With men who work iniquity;
I will not associate with what they choose.
The righteous will correct and reprove me with mercy, but let not the oil of the wicked anoint my head.
For my prayer will be
even in the midst of their pleasures.

Their judges have been overthrown
off the sides of the rocks.
Then they shall hear my words
for they are pleasant.
Like a lump of clay shattered on the ground,
so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Hades.-But my eyes are turned toward thee, O God, my Lord. In thee I have hoped, take not
away my soul.
Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me,
and from the snares of evildoers.
The wicked shall fall into their own nets,
while I alone escape.

Psalm 142 (141)

With my voice, I cried to the Lord;
with my voice, I made supplication to the Lord.
I pour out my prayer before him;
I declare my trouble before him.
When my spirit is faint, thou knowest my way.
In the path where I walk,
they have hidden a trap for me.
I looked on my right hand and watched,
but there was no one who takes notice of me;
There is no refuge for me; no one cares for me.
I cried to thee O Lord; I said: thou art my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.
Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low.
Save me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of prison,
so that I may give thanks to thy name.
The righteous will wait for me
until thou recompense me.

Psalm 130 (129)

Out of the depths I have cried to thee,
O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!
Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If thou, O Lord, shoulders mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee.
Because of thy name, I have waited for thee,
O Lord; my soul has waited for thy word;
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

In the Sixth Tone,

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together; and lifting thy Cross we all say: “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord;”¹⁸
“Hosanna in the highest.”¹⁹

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

¹⁸(John 12:13)

¹⁹(Mark 11:10)

Today, the Word of God and coeternal Son of the Father, whose throne is heaven and whose foot-stool is the earth, has humbled himself, coming to Bethany on a dumb colt. Wherefore, the children of the Hebrews holding branches in their hands praise him crying: “Hosanna in the highest.”²⁰ Blessed is he who comes, the King of Israel.²¹

For with the Lord there is mercy and with him is abundant redemption, and he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Let us also come today, all the new Israel, the Church of the Gentiles; and let us shout with the Prophet Zachariah: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold thy King comes to thee: he is meek and a savior;²² and he rides on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”²³ Wherefore, keep feast with the children, carrying branches in thy hands, and praise him: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, King of Israel.²⁴

Psalm 117 (116)

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Praise him, all you peoples!

²⁰(Mark 11:10)

²¹(John 12:13)

²²(Zechariah 9:10)

²³(Zech. 9:9)

²⁴John 12:13)

Prefiguring thy holy Resurrection, O good One, thou hast raised from the tomb by thine own command thy lifeless friend Lazarus; though after four days, there was already a stench.²⁵ Thou mounted symbolically on a donkey, as though riding upon a chariot, thus giving a sign to the Gentiles. Wherefore, beloved Israel offered thee praise out the mouths of innocent babes and infants,²⁶ as they beheld thee, O Christ, entering into the holy city six days before the Passover.²⁷

For great is his mercy toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, and his Disciples came to him saying: O Lord, where dost thou want us to make the preparations for thee to eat the Passover?²⁸ Then he sent them, saying: “Go into the city opposite you and you will find a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house, the teacher says, In thine house I will eat the Passover with my Disciples.”²⁹

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

In the Sixth Tone

²⁵(John 11:39)

²⁶(Ps. 8:3)

²⁷(Matt. 21:16)

²⁸(Matt. 26:17)

²⁹(Mark 14:13-14)

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together; and we all lift thy Cross and we say: “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord;”³⁰ “Hosanna in the highest.”³¹

THE ENTRANCE
the Prayer of the Entrance

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise thee, we bless thee, we give thanks to thee, and we implore thee: O Lord, Master of all, lover of mankind, direct our prayer as incense before thee;³² and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls.³³ For our eyes are turned toward thee, O Lord,³⁴ and in thee we have put our hope, O our God, for to thee belong all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

DEACON: Father, bless the holy entrance.

³⁰(John 12:13)

³¹(Mark 11:10)

³²(Ps.141<140>:2).

³³(Ps.59<58>:3).

³⁴(Ps.141<140>:8).

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance of thy holy ones,³⁵ always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. The priest/deacon lifts up the Censer.

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Prayer of Thanksgiving
(by the Martyr Athenogenes)

PEOPLE: O 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 that at all times thou shoulders be magnified by pleasant melody, O Son of God, who bestowest life. Therefore, the world glorifies thee.

DEACON: The evening prokeimenon.

The Vesperal Prokeimenon
(Sixth Tone)

PEOPLE: The Lord reigns, he is robed with majesty³⁶ *(Twice)*.

Verse 1: The Lord is robed, he is girded with strength.

³⁵An alternative reading is "Blessed is the entrance into thy sanctuary."

³⁶(Ps.93;92:1)

*Verse 2: He has established the world; it shall never be moved.*³⁷

The Lord reigns, he is robed with majesty.³⁸

The Readings

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Book of Genesis.*(49:1-2; 8-12)*

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: Jacob called his sons and said: Gather around, that I may tell you what will happen to you in the last days. Assemble, and hear me sons of Jacob; and listen to Israel your father. Judah, your brothers shall praise you: your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the offspring, my son, thou hast gone up: having crouched down, thou layest down as a lion and as a whelp; who will rouse him up? A ruler shall not depart from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored for him; and he is the expectation of the people. Binding his foal to the vine, and his donkey's colt to the choice vine; he washes his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: His eyes will be more cheering than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah the *Prophet.(3:14-19)*

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: Thus says the Lord: Rejoice, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has delivered you from the hands of your enemies: the King of Israel, even the Lord, is in your midst: you shall see evil no more. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, be of good courage; and to Zion, let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in you, the mighty One will save you; he will bring joy over you; he will renew you in his

³⁷(Ps.93<92>:2).

³⁸Ps.93<92>:1,2).

love, he will exult over you with delight as on a day of festival. I will gather them that are afflicted. Alas! who hast taken up a reproach against her? Behold, at that time I will work in you for your sake, says the Lord. I will save her that was oppressed, and receive her that was rejected; and I will make them renowned and praised in every land.

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Prophecy of Zachariah the Prophet.(9:9-15)

DEACON: Wisdom! Let us attend!

READER: Thus says the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; proclaim, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King comes to thee; righteous, and savior is he, meek, and riding on a donkey, even a young foal. He will destroy the chariot out of Ephraim and the horse out of Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be utterly destroyed; and there shall flow abundance and peace out of the nations; and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea and from the rivers to the ends of the earth. And by the blood of thy covenant thou hast set free thy prisoners out of the waterless pit. You will dwell in the strongholds, O prisoners of the congregation, and for one day of captivity I will restore to you double; For I have bent Judah as my bow, and I have filled Ephraim, and I will raise up your children, O Zion against your children, O Greece, and made you like a warrior sword. And the Lord shall be over them, and his arrow shall go forth like lightning: and the Lord Almighty shall sound the trumpet, and shall go in the whirlwinds of his threatening. The Lord Almighty shall protect them.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

DEACON: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say:

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy (*One time*).

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers: we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy (*One time*).

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness: we pray thee, hearken, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

DEACON: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP for presbyters, deacons, and all monastics; and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God: (Names) (Here prayer may be offered for the people with special needs); and for all devout Orthodox Christians who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house, and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox fallen asleep before us, *(Names) (Here prayer may be offered for the departed people)* who here and throughout the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and venerable church; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present who await thy great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

PRIEST: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified is thy name forever, Amen. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have set our hope in thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes.³⁹ 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, endures forever:⁴⁰ O despise not the works of thy hands.⁴¹ To thee belongs praise, to thee belongs honor,⁴² 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.

³⁹(Ps. 118<119>:12,64,135).

⁴⁰(Ps.107<106>:1).

⁴¹(Ps.138<137>8).

⁴²(Ps.65<64>:1).

The Litany of Supplication

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, 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 forgiveness 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: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful and a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we give glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of Heads

PRIEST: O Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind: Look favorably upon thy servants and thine inheritance, for to thee, the awesome Judge and lover of mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads, and bent their necks, not expecting help from men, but hoping in thy mercy, and looking for thy salvation. Protect them at all times, especially in the present evening, and in the coming night, from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

PRIEST: Blessed and glorified is the might of thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Aposticha in Tone 8

Rejoice and be happy, O city of Zion; Be joyful and glad, O Church of God; for behold, thy King has come sitting on a colt⁴³ and praised by the children. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed art thou for thy bountiful mercies: have mercy on us. Verse: Out of the mouths of babes and infants thou hast brought perfect praise.⁴⁴ Today the Savior has come to Jerusalem to fulfill the Scriptures; and all have taken in their hands palms and spread their garments for him, knowing that he is our God, to whom the cherubim sing unceasingly: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed art thou for thy bountiful mercies: have mercy on us. Verse: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy Name in all the earth!⁴⁵ Riding on the cherubim⁴⁶ and praised by the seraphim, thou didst ride a colt, O Good

⁴³(Zech. 9:9).

⁴⁴(Ps. 8:2).

⁴⁵(Ps. 8:1).

⁴⁶(Ps. 18<17>:11).

One, like David. The children honored thee with praise fitting to God. And the Jews blasphemed against thee unlawfully. Sitting on a donkey thou didst foreshadow how the Gentiles were to pass from unbelief to faith. Glory to thee O Christ, who alone art merciful and the Lover of mankind. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. In the Sixth Tone, Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought us together; and as lifting thy Cross we all say: “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord;”⁴⁷ “Hosanna in the highest.”⁴⁸

⁴⁷(John 12:13).

⁴⁸(Mark 11:10).

*Saint Simeon's Prayer*⁴⁹

PEOPLE: Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto 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 thy name's sake. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto 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 daily⁵⁰ 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.⁵¹

PRIEST: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Troparion of Lazarus, First Tone

⁴⁹(Lk.2:29-32).

⁵⁰Or, "living".

⁵¹Or, "the evil one".

O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before thy Passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like the children, carrying the signs of victory, cry to thee, the conqueror of death, Hosanna in the highest. “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.”⁵² Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. In the Fourth Tone. Buried with thee through Baptism, O Christ our God, we merited eternal life by thy Resurrection. Wherefore, we praise thee, crying, Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Then the priest concludes the office of vespers with the dismissal:

DEACON: Wisdom!

PEOPLE: Father, bless.

PRIEST: Blessed is HE WHO IS, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith, and all Orthodox Christians, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

PRIEST: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

⁵²(Mark 11:9).

PEOPLE: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption⁵³, gavest birth to God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

PRIEST: Glory to thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to thee.

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

The Benediction

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, who willed to sit on the foal of a donkey for our salvation; through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (*N*) patron Saint of this Church; of Saint(s) *N.N.*, whose memory we celebrate; and of all the saints: have mercy upon us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loves mankind.

Then facing the icon of Christ, the priest says:

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

⁵³Or, “remaining virgin...etc.”,

