
GREAT VESPERS ON THE EVE OF PALM SUNDAY

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

People: Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before
Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ
Himself, our King and our God!

And they read the Opening Psalm:

Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul! LORD my God, You are very
great!

You are clothed with honor and majesty; You cover
Yourself with light as with a garment.

You have stretched out the heavens like a tent, You have
laid the beams of Your chambers on the waters.

You make the clouds Your chariot, You ride on the wings of
the wind.

You make Your angels spirits; and Your ministers a flaming
fire.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken.

You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; at the sound of Your thunder they took to flight.

The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which You appointed for them.

You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst.

By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From Your lofty abode You water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate.

That he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man.

Oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted.

In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises they get them away and lie down in their dens.

Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan which You formed to sport in it.

These all look to You, to give them their food in due season.

When You give to them, they gather it up.

When You open Your hand, they are filled with good things. When You hide Your face, they are dismayed.

When You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created and You renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever, may the LORD rejoice in His works.

Who looks on the earth and it trembles, Who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night.

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You 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 You, O God! (x3)

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy temple and for those who enter with faith, devotion, and fear of God, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For our Metropolitan *N*, for our Bishop/ Archbishop *N*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces of the nation, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For this town, for every city, town and country, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For seasonable weather, for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick, for the suffering; for those in captivity and for their salvation, let us pray to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

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

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, immaculate, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Mother of God

and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Chanters: To You, O LORD.

Priest: O LORD, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in Your way, so that we may walk in Your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear Your holy Name, because You are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like You among gods, O LORD: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in Your holy Name.

For unto You 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.

Chanters: Amen.

Then the Chanters sing "LORD, I call upon You" in the sixth tone.

LORD, I Call Upon You

(Psalms 140, 141, 129 & 116)

LORD, I call upon You, hear me. Hear me, O LORD. LORD, I call upon You, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon You. Hear me, O LORD.

Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O LORD.

For Your name's sake I have waited for You, LORD, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the LORD.

The grace of the Holy Spirit
today has assembled us.
Taking up Your Cross we sing:
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the LORD!//
Hosanna in the highest!

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the LORD.

Today the Word of God the Father,
the co-eternal Son,
whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is earth,
humbles Himself and comes from Bethany,
riding on a dumb beast, the foal of an ass;
the children of the Hebrews hold branches in their hands.
They praise Him crying out:
Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel!

For with the LORD there is mercy and with Him is redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

New Israel, Church of the gentiles,
assemble today and sing with the Prophet Zachariah:
Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion!
Shout for joy, daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you!
He is meek, bearing salvation!
He rides on the colt of an ass!
Celebrate with the children, holding palms in your hands:
Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel!

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

By Your command, O loving LORD,
You raised Lazarus Your friend from death!
His flesh had been given over to corruption;
he was in the power of death four days!
By this, You foretold Your holy Resurrection for us!
Today, You mount an untamed colt as Thy chariot,
foretelling the conversion of the gentiles.
Your beloved Israel offers You a hymn of praise
from the mouths of innocent children,
as they see You enter the Holy City, O Christ,//
six days before the feast of Passover.

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the LORD
endures forever!

Six days before the feast of Passover
Jesus entered Bethany.
His disciples asked Him:
Where should we prepare for You to eat the Passover?
He answered: When you have entered the city,
a man carrying a jar of water will meet you.
Follow him into the house which he enters,
and tell the master of the house:
The Teacher says to you://
Here I shall eat the Passover with my disciples.

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

The grace of the Holy Spirit
today has assembled us.
Taking up Your Cross we sing:
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the LORD!//
Hosanna in the highest!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

O Gladsome Light

Priest and People:

Gladsome light of the holy glory of the immortal Father —
heavenly, holy, blessed, 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 You with voices of praise,
O Son of God and Giver of life. Therefore, all the world
glorifies You!

The Evening Prokeimena

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be to all! Wisdom!
The Evening Prokeimenon in the sixth tone.
The LORD is King! He is robed in majesty!

Chanters: The LORD is King! He is robed in majesty!

Priest: The LORD is robed, He is girded with strength!

Chanters: The LORD is King! He is robed in majesty!

Priest: For He has established the world so that it shall
never be moved!

Chanters: The LORD is King! He is robed in majesty!

Priest: Holiness befits Your house, LORD, forevermore!

Chanters: The LORD is King! He is robed in majesty!

Priest: The LORD is King!

Chanters: He is robed in majesty!

The Old Testament Readings

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Jacob called his sons and said to them, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together and hear me, O sons of Jacob; hear Israel, hear your father. Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hands shall be on the shoulders of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from a tender sprout, my son, you have sprung up; having couched, you fell asleep like a lion, and like a whelp. Who shall rouse him up? A prince shall not fail from Judah, nor a ruler from his loins, until there comes the things stored up for him; he is the expectation of the nations. Binding his foal to the vine, and the foal of his ass to its branches, he shall wash his robe in wine and his garment in the blood of the grape. His eyes shall bring joy more than wine, and his teeth

are whiter than milk.”

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus says the LORD: “Rejoice exceedingly, O daughter of Zion! Proclaim aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Rejoice and delight yourself with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your unrighteousness and delivered you from the hand of your enemies. The LORD reigns in your midst, and you shall not see evil any more.” At that time the LORD shall say to Jerusalem, “Take courage, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in you; the Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring joy upon you and shall renew you with His love; and He shall rejoice over you with delight, as in a day of festival. And I will gather your afflicted. Alas! Who has taken up a reproach against her? Behold, at that time I will work in you for your sake, says the LORD; and I will save her that was oppressed and accept her that was rejected; and I will make them a praise, and glorious in all the earth.”

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus says the LORD: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter

of Zion! Proclaim aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you, just and saving; he is meek and riding on an ass and a young foal. And he shall destroy the chariots out of Ephraim, and the horse out of Jerusalem, and the bow of war shall be utterly destroyed; and there shall be abundance and peace out of the nations. And he shall rule over the waters from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth. And you, by the blood of your covenant, have sent forth your prisoners out of the pit that has no water. You shall sit in strongholds, you prisoners of the assembly; and for one day of your sojourning I will recompense you double. For I have bent you for myself like a bow, O Judah, I have filled it with Ephraim; and I will raise up your children, O Zion, against the children of the Greeks, and handle you like the sword of a warrior. And the LORD shall be over them, and His arrow shall go forth like lightning. And the LORD God Almighty shall sound the trumpet and go forth in the noise of His threatening. The LORD Almighty shall defend them!"

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: O LORD almighty, God of our fathers, we pray unto You, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for our Metropolitan *N*, for our Bishop/Archbishop *N*, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the LORD, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for mercy, peace, life, health, salvation, and remission of sins of Your servants, the brothers and sisters of this holy house, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Furthermore, we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy temple; for those who labor in its service, for the singers; and for the people here present who wait to receive Your great and rich mercies, hear us and have mercy.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: O LORD our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants, be gracious to us according to Your infinite loving kindness; and send down Your bounties on us and on all Your people who await Your great and rich mercy.

For You are a gracious and merciful God, who love mankind, and unto You we send up glory: to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Chanters: Amen.

Vouchsafe, LORD...

People: Vouchsafe, LORD, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, LORD God of our fathers, and praised and glorified be Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, LORD, be upon us as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, LORD, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, Master, make me to understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, LORD, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship; to You belongs praise; to You belongs glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Evening Litany

Priest: Let us complete our evening prayer to the LORD.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy!

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Chanters: LORD, have mercy!

Priest: For a perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless evening, let us ask of the LORD.

Chanters: Grant it, O LORD!

Priest: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, and a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the LORD.

Chanters: Grant it, O LORD!

Priest: For the pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the LORD.

Chanters: Grant it, O LORD!

Priest: For all things beneficial and good for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the LORD.

Chanters: Grant it, O LORD!

Priest: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the LORD.

Chanters: Grant it, O LORD!

Priest: A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Chanters: Grant it, O LORD!

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, immaculate, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Chanters: To You, O LORD!

Priest: Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into Your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer You our evening hymn of glory; O LORD who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense before You and accept it as a savor of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every

deed that walks in darkness. Give us sleep, which You have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, Giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind Your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on Your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to Your loving-kindness, as we bring to Your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all Your people. Through the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy.

For You are a good God who love mankind, and unto You we send up glory: to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanters: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Chanters: And to your spirit!

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the LORD!

Chanters: To You, O LORD!

Priest: LORD our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance, for to You, the fearful Judge who love mankind, Your servants have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting Your mercy and looking for

Your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanters: Amen.

Aposticha

The Chanters sing:

Rejoice and be glad, city of Zion!
Exult and be joyful, O Church of God!
Your King is coming in righteousness.
He rides on a colt, the foal of an ass.
The children sing His praises:
Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed are You of great mercy! Have mercy on us!

Out of the mouths of babes and infants You have fashioned
perfect praise!

Today the Savior comes to Jerusalem,
fulfilling the Scriptures.
He is greeted with palms and a carpet of clothes.
All know it is He:
the LORD, whom the Cherubim praise.
Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed are You of great mercy! Have mercy on us!

LORD, our LORD, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth!

O gracious LORD, who ride upon the Cherubim,
and are praised by the Seraphim,
now You ride like David on the foal of an ass.
The children sing hymns worthy of God,
while the priests and scribes blaspheme against You.
By riding an untamed colt, You have prefigured the
salvation of the gentiles,
those wild beasts, who will be brought from unbelief to faith!
Glory to You, O merciful Christ.//
Our King 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.

The grace of the Holy Spirit
today has assembled us.
Taking up Your Cross we sing:
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the LORD!//
Hosanna in the highest!

The Song of Simeon the Godbearer

Chanters: LORD, now let Your servant depart in peace,
according to Your word; For my eyes have seen
Your salvation, which You have prepared before
the face of all people; A light to enlighten the
Gentiles and to be the glory of Your people Israel.

People: Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have
mercy on us. (x3)
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

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 Your name's sake.

LORD, have mercy. *(x3)*

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 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.

Priest: For Yours 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.

Chanters: Amen.

The Troparia

Then the Chanters sing:

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion,
You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God!
Like the children with the palms of victory,
we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of death;
Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the LORD!

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

When we were buried with You in Baptism, O Christ God,
we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection!
Now we praise You and sing:
Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the LORD!

Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom!

Chanters: Father, bless!

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

Chanters: Amen.

Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and
Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Chanters: More honorable than the Cherubim and more
glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim:
without defilement you gave birth to God the
Word. True Mother of God, we magnify you!

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our Hope;
Glory to You!

Chanters: 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. *(x3)*

Father, bless!

Priest: May He who deigned to ride on a donkey's colt for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

Chanters: Amen.

