

# Reader's Vespers for the Feast of the Holy, Glorious, and All-praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul

**Sung on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

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

**Reader:** O come, let us worship God our King.  
O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.  
O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

## **PSALM 103**

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the

heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (3 times)

*In place of the Great Litany:*

**Reader/Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

**“LORD I CALL ...”**

**Tone 2**

Lord, 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!

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 2**

What garlands of song shall we weave for Peter and Paul?  
Separated in body, they were united by the Spirit;  
they rank first among preachers:  
one was the leader of the Apostolic army,  
while the other laboured more than them all!  
Truly, Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//  
has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory.

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*Repeat: “What garlands of song ...”*

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

*Repeat: “What garlands of song ...”*

*For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy Word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

[Music on website]

[Music on website]

[Music on website]

How shall we worthily sing hymns to honour Peter and Paul?  
Their hands were filled with grace and truth;  
their feet carried them to the ends of the earth,  
preaching the Gospel of peace.  
Once driven by the wind of the Spirit,  
they are now carried up to heaven.  
Truly they are rivers of wisdom and upholders of the Cross.  
Through them Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//  
has cast down the arrogance of demons.

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

*Repeat: “How shall we worthily sing hymns ...”*

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

*Repeat: “How shall we worthily sing hymns ...”*

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

What spiritual songs shall we sing for Peter and Paul? [Music on website]  
They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless.  
They are awesome swords of the Spirit.  
They are the adornment of Rome;  
they have nourished the whole world with the Word of God.  
They are the living tablets of the New Testament written by the hand of  
God.//  
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has exalted them in Zion.

*For His mercy is confirmed on us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

*Repeat: “With what spiritual songs ...”*

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

**Tone 4** [\[Music on website\]](#)

Three times Christ asked Peter: “Dost thou love Me?”  
In this way He reversed the threefold denial of Himself.  
Henceforth Simon was to lead those who had witnessed God’s mysteries.  
He cried out to the Lord:  
“Thou dost know all things; Thou dost know that I love Thee!”  
“Feed My sheep, tend My chosen ones,” the Saviour said.  
“Feed My lambs, whose salvation I bought with Mine own blood!”//  
Blessed Apostle, pray that He may grant us great mercy!

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

**Tone 4** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*) [\[Music on website\]](#)

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord  
through thee, O Virgin.  
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in thee:  
“At Thy right hand stood the Queen,”  
Thy Mother, 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 has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

**O GLADSOME LIGHT**

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly,  
holy, blessed, 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, the Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth  
glorify Thee.

**THE EVENING PROKEIMENON**

**Reader:** The Evening Prokeimenon.

**Reader:** Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

**Choir:** Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

**Reader:** Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house  
of our God.

**Choir:** Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

**Reader:** Behold now, bless ye the Lord,

**Choir:** all ye servants of the Lord.

**READINGS**

**A Reading from the General Epistle of Peter** [1 Peter 1:3-9]

Brethren, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his  
great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which  
is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by  
God’s power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be  
revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while  
you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your  
faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire,  
may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus  
Christ. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now  
see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy.  
As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

**A Reading from the General Epistle of Peter** [1 Peter 1:13-19]

Beloved, gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the  
grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient  
children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,  
but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;  
since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you invoke as  
Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds,  
conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You  
know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your  
fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the  
precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

**A Reading from the General Epistle of Peter** [1 Peter 2:11-24]

Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions  
of the flesh that wage war against your soul. Maintain good conduct  
among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as  
wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of  
visitation. Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution,  
whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him

to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle but also to the overbearing. For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

*In place of the Evening Litany:*

**Reader/Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

### **VOUCHSAFE, O LORD**

**Reader:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening 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.

*In place of the Litany of Supplication:*

**Reader/Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

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

### **APOSTICHA**

#### **Tone 1**

Glorious Apostle Paul, [Music on website]  
who can describe thy bondage and tribulations in the cities?  
Who can speak of thine endless toil and effort for the Gospel of Christ?  
Thou didst labour to gain all mankind  
and didst lead them into Christ's holy Church.  
Pray that she may guard thy true confession to the ends of the world, //  
Paul, Apostle and teacher of the churches!

*v. Their proclamation hath gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.*

Glorious Apostle Paul, [Music on website]  
who can describe thy bondage and tribulations in the cities?  
Thou didst keep vigil in hunger and thirst; cold, naked and weary;  
and fleeing Damascus for thy life, let down in a basket through the wall.  
Thy back was torn by rods of iron,  
thou wast stoned, thou wast kept a prisoner under guard.  
Thou wast shipwrecked, cast adrift in the open sea.  
Truly thou art a spectacle for angels and for mankind!  
Thou didst endure all these things for Jesus Christ, thy Lord and thy  
strength,  
that thou mightest win the whole world for Him.  
We entreat thee, as we faithfully keep thy memory: //  
Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

*v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.*

[Music on website]

Let us praise Peter and Paul, the two great stars of the Church.  
They shine brighter than the sun in the sky of faith.  
Let the nations follow the rays of their preaching,  
and be led from ignorance to knowledge divine!  
One was nailed to the cross:  
he received the keys of the Kingdom from Christ in heaven.  
The other, beheaded by the sword, departed to the Saviour.  
He is worthily counted blessed.  
Together they proclaim to Israel:

“He Who was stretched out on the Cross is the Lord of all!”  
By their prayers, O Christ our God,  
strengthen the Orthodox Faith and destroy our enemies, //  
as Thou art the Lover of mankind!

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

**Tone 6** [Music on website]

A joyful feast dawns upon the earth today:  
the memorial of Peter and Paul,  
the wise leaders of the Apostles.  
Let Rome rejoice and be glad with us!  
Let us keep feast, brethren, in songs and hymns!  
Rejoice, Apostle Peter, true friend of Christ our God!  
Rejoice, beloved Paul, herald of the faith and teacher of the universe!  
You have boldness before him, O chosen pair; //  
pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

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

**Tone 6 (Aposticha Theotokion)** [Music on website]

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,  
was born of thee, O most pure Virgin.  
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.  
Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God!  
Rejoice, O celestial joy!  
Rejoice, O Lady: //  
the protection, intercession and salvation of our souls!

#### **THE PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON, THE GOD-RECEIVER**

**Reader:** Lord, 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; to be a light to lighten the  
Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins.  
Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon 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; both now and  
ever, and unto 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 the evil one.

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

#### **TROPARIA**

**Troparion of the Holy Apostles - Tone 4** [Music on website]

O first-enthroned among the Apostles,  
and teachers of the whole world:  
entreat the Master of all  
to grant peace to the world, //  
and great mercy to our souls!

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

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion - Tone 4** [Music on website]

The mystery which was hidden from before the ages  
and was unknown even to the angels,  
God hath revealed to those on earth  
through thee, O Theotokos.  
For he who became incarnate in unconfused union  
of his own will accepted the Cross for us,  
raising again the first-created man //  
and saving our souls from death.

## **DISMISSAL**

**Reader:** Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without defilement gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord!

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Who rose again from the dead, through the intercessions of Thine all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the honourable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; of the Holy, Glorious, and All-praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, and of all Thy Saints, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

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