

Reader's Vespers for the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Sung on Friday 14th August 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 1

[Music on website]

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 1

[Music on website]

O the marvellous wonder!
The source of Life is laid in a grave,
and the tomb becomes a ladder to heaven.
Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy shrine of the Theotokos!
Let us, the faithful, cry out with Gabriel as our captain:
“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//
He that grants the world great mercy through thee!”

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

Repeat: “O the marvellous wonder ...”

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

Repeat: “O the marvellous wonder ...”

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.

O the wonder of thy mysteries, pure Lady:
thou wast made the throne of the Most High,
and today thou hast passed from earth to heaven.
Thy glory is full of splendour, shining with grace in divine brightness.
Virgins, be raised to the heights with the Mother of the King!
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//
He that grants the world great mercy through thee!

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

Repeat: “O the wonder of thy mysteries ...”

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

Repeat: “O the wonder of thy mysteries ...”

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

The Dominions and Thrones, the Rulers, Principalities and Powers,
the Cherubim and fearsome Seraphim, glorify thy falling asleep.

All those born of earth rejoice,
adorned with honour by thy divine glory.
Kings fall down and sing with the Archangels and Angels:
"Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee, //
He that grants the world great mercy through thee!"

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

Repeat: "The Dominions and Thrones ..."

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

*The whole sticheron may be sung in Tone 1, or it
may be separated into phrases so that the text
can be sung in all eight Tones.*

Tone [Music on website]

By the divine command the God-bearing Apostles
were caught up by clouds from every place.
When they came to thine all-pure body, the source
of Life, they kissed it most reverently.
The highest Powers of heaven were also
present with their Master,
and seized with awe they escorted the inviolate
body,
the body that had received God in the flesh.
In a manner beyond this world they went
before it and invisibly cried out to the
ranks above them:
"Behold, the Queen of all, and Child of God, has
come!
Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this
world receive the Mother of the
everlasting Light,
for through her was accomplished the salvation
of all the mortal race!
We cannot gaze upon her,
nor is it possible to render honour worthy of
her,
for her excellence surpasses all understanding."
Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos, who livest
forever with thy Son, the life-bearing King,
pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new
people of God,
and to save them from every hostile assault,
for we have acquired thine intercession, //
and to the ages, in manifest splendour, we call
thee blessed.

Tone 1

By the divine command
the God-bearing Apostles
were caught up by clouds from every place.

Tone 5

When they came to thine all-pure body,
the source of Life,
they kissed it most reverently.

Tone 2

The highest Powers of heaven
were also present with their Master,

Tone 6

and, seized with awe, they escorted the
inviolable body,
the body that had received God in the flesh.
In a manner beyond this world they went
before it and invisibly cried out to the
ranks above them:
"Behold, the Queen of all and Child of God has
come!

Tone 3

Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this world
receive the Mother of the everlasting Light,

Tone 7

for through her was accomplished the salvation
of all the mortal race!

We cannot gaze upon her,
nor is it possible to render honour worthy of her,

Tone 4

for her excellence surpasses all understanding."

Tone 8

Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos,
who livest forever with thy Son, the life-bearing
King,

pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new
people of God,
and to save them from every hostile assault,
for we have acquired thine intercession,

Tone 1

and to the ages, in manifest splendour,
we call thee blessed.

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: Thou, O God, art my Helper; Thy mercy shall go before me.

Choir: Thou, O God, art my Helper; Thy mercy shall go before me.

Reader: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God; and from them that rise up against me, redeem me.

Choir: Thou, O God, art my Helper; Thy mercy shall go before me.

Reader: Thou, O God, art my Helper;

Choir: Thy mercy shall go before me.

READINGS

A Reading from the First Book of Moses, the Book of Genesis [Genesis 28:10-17]

Jacob went forth from the well of the oath, and departed into Haran. And he came to a certain place, and slept there, for the sun had gone down; and he took one of the stones of the place, and put it at his head, and lay down to sleep in that place, and dreamed: and behold a ladder fixed on the earth, whose top reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascended and descended on it. And the Lord stood upon it, and said: "I am the God of thy father Abraham, and the God of Isaac. Fear not; the land on which thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. And thy seed shall be like the sand of the earth; and it shall spread abroad to the sea, and the south, and the north, and the east; and in thee and in thy seed shall all tribes of the earth be blessed. And behold I am with thee to preserve thee continually in all the way wherein thou shalt go; and I will bring thee back to this land; for I will not desert thee, until I have done all that I have said to thee." And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and said: "The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." And he was afraid, and said: "How fearful is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

A Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel [Ezekiel 43:27-44:4]

Thus saith the Lord: "It shall come to pass from the eighth day and onward, that the priests shall offer your whole burnt-offerings on the altar, and your peace-offerings; and I will accept you," saith the Lord. Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary that faceth eastward; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall pass through it; for the Lord God of Israel shall enter by it, and it shall be shut. For the Prince, He shall sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord; He shall go in by the way of the porch of the gate, and shall go forth by the way of the same." And He brought me in by the way of the gate that faceth northward, in front of the house: and I looked, and, behold! the house was full of the glory of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs [Proverbs 9:1-11]

Wisdom hath built a house for herself and set up seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. She hath sent forth her servants, calling with a loud proclamation to the feast, saying: "Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me." And to those who want understanding, she saith: "Come, eat of my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you. Leave folly, that ye may reign forever; and seek wisdom, and improve understanding by knowledge." He that reproveth evil men shall get dishonour to himself; and he that rebuketh an ungodly man shall disgrace himself. Rebuke not evil men, lest they should hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser: instruct a just man, and he will receive more instruction. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of the law is the character of a sound mind. For in this way thou shalt live long, and years of thy life shall be added to thee.

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 4

[[Music on website](#)]

Come, O people,
let us sing the praises of the pure and most holy Virgin,
from whom the Word of the Father ineffably came forth in the flesh!
Let us cry aloud and say:
“Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the womb that contained Christ!
Having delivered thy soul into His holy hands, //
O most pure one, entreat Him to save our souls!”

v. Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place: Thou and the Ark of Thy sanctification!

O pure and most holy Virgin,
the multitude of Angels in heaven and men on earth
extol thy venerable falling asleep and call it blessed,
for thou hast become the Mother of Christ, our God and Creator of all.
Never cease to intercede with Him on our behalf, we pray,
for next to God we have put our hope in thee, //
O greatly-honoured, unwedded Theotokos!

v. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back.

Come, O peoples,
let us sing today to Christ our God a song of David!
As he says, “Virgins behind her shall be brought to the King.
They shall be brought with joy and gladness.”
For she, through whom we have been made godlike, is of the seed of David,
and gloriously and ineffably commends herself into the hands of her own Son and Master.
Praising her as the Mother of God,
we cry out to her and say:
“Save us from all distress and deliver our souls from dangers, //
for we confess thee to be the Theotokos!”

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

Tone 4

At thy departing, O Virgin Theotokos,
to Him Who was ineffably born of thee,

[James, the first bishop and brother of the Lord ...]

James, the first bishop and brother of the Lord, was there,
and so was Peter, the most honoured pinnacle of the theologians,
and the whole sacred choir of the Apostles.
In words of theology that showed forth heavenly things
they sang the praises of the divine and amazing mystery of the dispensation of Christ,
and they rejoiced, O all-praised Virgin,
as they buried thy body,
the source of Life, which had received God.
On high, the all-holy and most venerable angelic Powers,
in amazement at the wonder, bowed and said to one another:
“Lift up your gates, and receive her who bore the Creator of heaven and earth!”
So we too celebrate thy memory
and cry out to thee, all-praised Lady://
“Raise up the horn of Christians, and save 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.

TROPARION

Troparion of the Dormition in Tone 1

[[Music on website](#)]

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity.
In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos.
Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life,//
and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

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

Repeat: "In giving birth ..."

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

Repeat: "In giving birth ..."

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, through the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother, whose Dormition we celebrate; by the might of the precious 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 and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the 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.