

# Hymns for Vespers on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022

For the Eve of the Nativity of Christ ♦ The Holy Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 5**

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!

*V. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 5 (For the Forefeast)**

“Thou, my Son, art the all-perfect God,  
yet Thou dost accept the form of Adam.  
In my hands I hold Thee, yet Thou dost hold all creation!  
How shall I wrap Thee in swaddling clothes?  
How shall I nourish Thee, O Food of life?  
How shall I wonder at Thine ineffable poverty?  
How shall I name Thee, since I am Thy servant?”  
Thy Mother cried: “I can only bless and praise Thee in song,//  
for Thou dost grant the world great mercy.”

*V. (5) 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.*

The Virgin Mother beheld the pre-eternal God,  
the Infant Who was born of her flesh.  
She held Him tenderly, overfilled with joy.  
She cried: “How can I see Thee, yet not understand the mystery?  
Though the cave is small and lowly,  
it is able to find room for Thee, O my God.  
Born of me, yet preserving my virginity,//  
Thou dost grant the world great mercy.”

*V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

The pure Handmaid spoke in amazement  
when she saw the Wise Men come.  
She asked them: “Whom are you seeking?  
I see that you have come from afar.  
You resemble Persians in appearance and wisdom.  
You have made a strange and wonderful journey.  
Now come and worship God, Who journeyed from on high  
to come and take His abode in me,//  
and Who grants the world great mercy!”

**V. (3)** *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 2** *(For Saint Eugenia)*

When, with God-like foresight, thou didst go outside the city,  
thou didst clearly abandon the delights of the world.  
Hearing the sweet singing of the psalms,  
thou wast illumined with the fullness of divine knowledge.  
And having conceived fear in the womb, //  
thou didst bring forth the divine and saving Spirit to those who journeyed with thee.

**V. (2)** *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

When thou wast betrothed to Christ, O Eugenia,  
Thou didst eagerly lead thy servants to Him,  
bringing them as a living dowry.  
And they emulated thine own courage,  
shining in faith and in grace, and practicing every virtue; //  
they were martyrs, truly godly in mind, proclaiming faith to all.

**V. (1)** *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Shining with the radiance of the Spirit,  
thou didst lead a chorus of virgins to Christ.  
Restoring them to life with the discourse of thy wisdom,  
Thou didst point out the path of the journey on high,  
persuading them to be brightly adorned with the blood of martyrdom.  
Dancing in chorus with them now, O Martyr worthy of all praise, //  
thou hast truly found joy as thou thyself hast desired.

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

**Tone 2** *(For the Forefeast)*

The time of our salvation draws near.  
Make ready, O cave!  
The Virgin draws near to bear the Christ.  
Be glad and rejoice, O Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
for our Lord has come from thee!  
Hearken, O mountains and hills, you lands around Judea, //  
for Christ, the Lover of man, is coming to save those whom He created!

**O GLADSOME LIGHT** *is sung immediately.*

*There is no Entrance with the censer, and the Priest does not announce "Wisdom! Stand upright!"*

**THE EVENING PROKEIMENON**

*The Priest does not announce "The Evening Prokeimenon."*  
Thou, O God, art my Helper; Thy mercy shall go before me.

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

**VOUCHSAFE, O LORD**

**THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION**

**THE PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF THE HEADS**

## THE APOSTICHA

### Tone 1 *(For the Forefeast)*

The Kings of the East have come  
to see Thee, the King, being born.  
They have brought Thee gifts from afar  
and are standing outside the doors bearing frankincense, gold, and myrrh.  
“Command them to enter and see  
the Infant Whom I hold in my arms, //  
Who is older than Adam!”

*V. God shall come from Teman and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain.*

The Virgin said to the Wise Men:  
“Come and enter with haste!  
Behold the invisible God, visible now as a Man!”  
They entered with zeal and worshipped Him, //  
thus fulfilling the divine prophecy.

*V. O Lord, I have heard what Thou hast done, and I am filled with awe.*

“I support Thee in my arms as a babe;  
yet Thou dost support all creation.  
How can I provide for Thee,  
for Thou dost provide for the whole world?  
I glorify Thy boundless condescension //  
by which Thou art saving the perishing world.”

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

### Tone 6 *(For the Forefeast)*

Triumph, O Zion!  
Rejoice, Jerusalem, city of Christ our God!  
Receive the Creator contained within a cave and a manger!  
Open the gates to me;  
I will enter to see a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
Who upholds the creation in the palm of His hand,  
Whose praises the Angels sing with unceasing voice: //  
the Lord and Giver of Life, Who saves the human race.

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

### THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

#### TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST

##### Tone 4

Mary was of David's seed,  
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.  
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.  
The time for the birth was at hand.  
Since there was no room at the inn,  
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. //  
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

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

*Repeat: Mary was of David's seed ...*

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

*Repeat: Mary was of David's seed ...*

## **THE EKTENIA**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*After the Ektenia, the Dismissal Prayers are read as at Great Vespers, except that the Priest reads the Little Dismissal.*

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