

## THE ALL-NIGHT VIGIL VESPERS

*The All-Night Vigil is used on Saturday evenings throughout the year,<sup>1</sup> on the great feasts of the Lord and of the Mother of God, and on any other commemoration for which stichera at Litya are provided in the Menaion. All-Night Vigil is not preceded by the Ninth Hour, which is read together with Small Vespers earlier.*

*Deacon:* Arise! Master, bless!

*Priest:* Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Clergy, singing:*<sup>2</sup> 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.  
Come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

*Then the choir sings* Psalm 103: Bless the Lord, O my soul... *In some places, only selected verses of Psalm 103 are sung. See the Appendix on p. 37 for an abbreviated version of Psalm 103.*

### PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou art very great. Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, Who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, Who ridest on the wings of the wind, Who makest the winds Thy messengers, fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest 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

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<sup>1</sup> *In some places, Great Vespers alone is sung on Saturday evenings, with Matins on Sunday morning, prior to Liturgy.*

<sup>2</sup> *In some places, the choir sings these verses.*

branches. From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost 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. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest 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 Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy 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 Thou didst form to sport 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 hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renewest 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.

*And again:*

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou 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. (*thrice*)

*At the end of the psalm, the deacon begins the* Great Litany:

*Deacon:* In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, have mercy. (*after each petition*)

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

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. ℟

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For our Metropolitan *N.*, for our Bishop [*or Archbishop*] *N.*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For this country, its President [*or the title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For this city,<sup>3</sup> for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

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

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace. ℟

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, 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.

℟ 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.

℟ Amen.

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<sup>3</sup> Or *village*, or *holy monastery*.

*Then the first section of the first kathisma of the Psalter (Blessed is the man...) is sung. However, Blessed is the man... is not sung on the eves of great feasts of the Lord, except on Saturday or Sunday evening. Nor is it sung on the evenings of these feasts, except on Saturday evening. In some places, only select verses of the first kathisma are sung. See the Appendix on pg. 38 for an abbreviated form of Blessed is the man...*

*At the conclusion of the first section, the deacon says the* Little Litany:

*Deacon:* Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, 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.

℟ To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is the might, and 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.

℟ Amen.

*On Saturday evening,<sup>4</sup> the second section of the first kathisma is read, followed again by the Little Litany, with the exclamation:*

*Priest:* For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory...

℟ Amen.

*And after the third section, again the Little Litany, with the exclamation:*

*Priest:* For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory...

℟ Amen.

*And the choir begins Lord, I Call... in the appropriate tone (the tone of the first sticheron):*

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<sup>4</sup> All three sections of the kathisma are used on Saturday evening. When Vigil is served for a feast on a weekday, only the first section is used: after the Little Litany, the choir immediately begins Lord, I Call...

*Choir:* 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!

*The reader then reads the verses of Psalms 140, 141, 129, and 116 until the beginning of the stichera. The stichera are inserted between the reader's verses according to the number appointed. In some places, the reader omits the psalms until the first sticheron and instead begins with the numbered psalm verse immediately preceding the first sticheron.*

### PSALM 140

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity; and let me not eat of their dainties. Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol. But my eyes are toward Thee, O Lord God; in Thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, while I escape.

### PSALM 141

I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord, I pour out my complaint before Him, I tell 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 look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me, no man cares for me. I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say, Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low. Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me.

✠ (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

✠ (9) The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

### PSALM 129

✠ (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

- ✠ (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
- ✠ (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.
- ✠ (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.
- ✠ (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.
- ✠ (3) For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

### PSALM 116

- ✠ (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!
- ✠ (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The clergy make the entrance with the censer. The deacon, standing before the open Holy Doors, exclaims* Wisdom. Stand upright.

*Choir:* 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 Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life: therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee.

*The priest and deacon proceed to the high place. The deacon exclaims* Let us attend. *And the priest:* Peace be unto all. *And the deacon:* Wisdom. The prokimenon in the \_\_\_ tone. *And he and the singers chant the appointed* Prokimenon.

### SATURDAY: Tone 6

The Lord is King: / He is robed in majesty. *(Ps. 92:1a)*

✠ 1. The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength. *(Ps. 92:1b)*

✠ 2. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved. *(Ps. 92:2)*

✠ 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore! *(Ps. 92:7b)*

### SUNDAY: Tone 8

Behold now, bless the Lord, / all you servants of the Lord. *(Ps. 133:1)*

✠ You that stand in the house of the Lord, even in the courts of the house of our God. *(Ps. 133:2)*

### MONDAY: Tone 4

The Lord will hear me / when I call upon Him. *(Ps. 4:4b)*

✠ When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me. *(Ps. 4:1a)*

### TUESDAY: Tone 1

Thy mercy, O Lord, / shall follow me all the days of my life. *(Ps. 22:7a)*

✠ The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing: He maketh me to lie down in a green pasture. *(Ps. 22:1-2a)*

### WEDNESDAY: Tone 5

Save me, O God, by Thy Name, / and judge me by Thy strength. *(Ps. 53:1)*

✠ Hear my prayer, O God: hearken unto the words of my mouth. *(Ps. 53: 2)*

### THURSDAY: Tone 6

My help comes from the Lord / Who made heaven and earth. *(Ps. 120:2)*

✠ I lifted up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence will my help come? *(Ps. 120:1)*

### FRIDAY: Tone 7

Thou, O God, art my helper, / and Thy mercy shall go before me. *(Ps. 58:9b-10a)*

✠ Rescue me from mine enemies, O God: and deliver me from them that rise up against me. *(Ps. 58:1)*

*When 14 September, 6 January, or 6 August falls on a Saturday, the following Great Prokimenon is sung at Vigil on Friday evening:*

### Tone 7

Our God is in heaven and on earth: / He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased.  
(Ps. 113:11)

✠ 1. When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from among a strange people; (Ps. 113:1)

✠ 2. The sea saw it and fled: Jordan was driven back. (Ps. 113:3)

✠ 3. What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back? (Ps. 113:5)

*When appointed, Lessons from the Old or New Testament are now read. The deacon says, Wisdom. And the reader: The reading from \_\_\_\_\_. And the deacon: Let us attend.*

*Following the prokimenon (or after the third lesson), the deacon begins the Augmented Litany:*

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

✠ Lord, have mercy.

O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

✠ Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

✠ Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Again we pray for our Metropolitan *N.*, for our Bishop [*or Archbishop*] *N.*, and for all our brethren in Christ. ✠

Again we pray for this country, its President [*or title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces. ✠

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*or* holy monastery); [*for NN.,*] and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord. ✠



Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, [NN., and for] the brethren of this holy temple, and for the pardon and remission of their sins. *R̄*

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy. *R̄*

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*R̄* Amen.

*Reader:* Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, 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 commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: 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.

*The deacon continues with the Evening Litany:*

*Deacon:* Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

*R̄* Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*R̄* Lord, have mercy.

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*R̄* Grant this, O Lord. (*after each petition*)

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord. *R̄*

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord. *R̄*

All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord. *℟:*

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord. *℟:*

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask. *℟:*

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, 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.

*℟:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*℟:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*℟:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

*℟:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be 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.

*℟:* Amen.

*If for any reason Litya and the blessing of loaves are not to take place at a Vigil, Vespers continues with the Aposticha, Lord, now lettest..., Holy God..., etc., and Our Father... After For Thine is the Kingdom..., the choir sings Rejoice, O Virgin... or the appointed troparia. After Blessed be the Name of the Lord... and Psalm 33:1-10, the priest blesses the people: The blessing of the Lord... and immediately the Six Psalms.*

*The choir then sings the appointed stichera of the Litya as the clergy proceed to the narthex. After the stichera, the deacon begins the Litany:*

*Deacon:* O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary... [...] <sup>5</sup> ...of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna and of all Thy saints, we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy on us.

✠ Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*<sup>6</sup>

Again we pray for our Metropolitan *N.*, for our Bishop [*or Archbishop*] *N.*, and all our brotherhood in Christ, and for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this city<sup>7</sup> and those who dwell therein; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the welfare of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for those who are gone away and those who are abroad; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the repose, refreshment, and blessed memory and forgiveness of sins of all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox gone to their rest before us who lie here and everywhere; for the deliverance of captives; for our brethren who are serving and for all who serve and have served in this holy temple [*or this holy monastery*], let us say:

✠ Lord, have mercy. *(30 times)*

Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us say:

✠ Lord, have mercy. *(50 times)*

Again we pray that he will keep this city [*or village*] and this holy church [*or holy monastery*] and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God, Who loves mankind, will be gracious and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may

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<sup>5</sup> *Due to its length, the full text of this petition has been excluded here. The petition should not be abbreviated in this fashion. Clergy should reference the Hieratikon, © St. Tikhon's Monastery Press, 2017, for the full text of this petition.*

<sup>6</sup> *In common practice, Lord, have mercy is sung twelve times after each of the first four petitions of the Litya, and three times after the final petition.*

<sup>7</sup> *Or village, or holy monastery.*

deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

℟ Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Again we pray that the Lord our God will hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

℟ Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

*Priest:* Hear us, O God our Savior, Thou hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be merciful, be merciful, O Master, regarding our sins, and have mercy on us. For Thou art a merciful God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

℟ Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

℟ And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

℟ To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary... [*and the rest, as in the first petition*]<sup>8</sup> ...and of all the saints, make our prayer acceptable, grant us forgiveness of our trespasses, shelter us under the shelter of Thy wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, give peace to our life, O Lord; have mercy on us and on Thy world and save our souls, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

℟ Amen.

*The choir then sings the appointed Aposticha as the clergy advance from the narthex to the middle of the church, where there has been placed a table with five loaves of bread, wheat, and two vessels containing wine and oil.*

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<sup>8</sup> Clergy should reference the Hieratikon for the full text of this prayer and appropriate abbreviations.

*At the Aposticha, the appointed verses from the Menaion are used. But on Saturdays, the following verses are used:*

✠ The Lord is King: He is robed in majesty. (Ps. 92:1a)

✠ For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved. (Ps. 92:2)

✠ Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore! (Ps. 92:7b)

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

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*After the final sticheron of the Aposticha, St. Symeon's Prayer is read (in some instances it is sung by the choir):*

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; a Light to enlighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people, Israel.

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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 evil.

*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.

✠ Amen.

*And the choir sings the appointed Troparia or Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos... If Litya was not served, the choir then immediately sings Blessed be the Name of the Lord...*

*If Litya was served, as the choir sings the Troparia, the deacon censes around the prepared table three times: once during each troparion. When the singing is finished, the deacon says:*

✠. Let us pray to the Lord.

✠. Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and therewith didst feed the five thousand: do Thou the same Lord bless these loaves, this wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city [or village or holy monastery] and in all Thy world, and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For it is Thou Who dost bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

✠. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (*thrice*)

*And immediately, the reader or choir begins Psalm 33 up to verse ten:*

### PSALM 33:1-10

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together! I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want! The rich suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord be upon you, through His grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

✠. Amen.

*And immediately Matins begins with Glory to God in the highest... and the Six Psalms. If Matins will be served the following morning, the Dismissal follows instead.*

## MATINS

*When Matins is served alone, not as part of the All-Night Vigil, it begins with the Royal Office, or, in some places, with the Typical Beginning, neither of which are presented here. When following Vespers at a Vigil, Matins begins immediately after The blessing of the Lord... as follows:*

*Reader:* Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
(*thrice*)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (*twice*)

## PSALM 3

O Lord, how many are my foes. Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord. Deliver me, O my God. For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

*And again:*

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

## PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes – it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is

Thou, O Lord my God, Who wilt answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips." For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord. O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

*And again:*

Do not forsake me, O Lord. O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

## PSALM 62

O God, Thou art my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy Name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

*And again:*

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me.

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. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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



## PSALM 87

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; Thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eyes grow dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee. Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee. O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

*And again:*

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry.

## PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the Pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As

for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*And again:*

In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

### PSALM 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications. In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord. My spirit fails. Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies. I have fled to Thee for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble. And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

*And again:*

In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant. *(twice)*

Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path.

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. *(thrice)*

*After the conclusion of the Six Psalms, the deacon begins the* Great Litany.

*Deacon:* In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, have mercy. (*after each petition*)

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

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. ℟

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For our Metropolitan *N.*, for our Bishop [*or Archbishop*] *N.*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For this country, its President [*or the title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For this city,<sup>1</sup> for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

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

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. ℟

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace. ℟

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, 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.

℟ 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.

℟ Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Or *village*, or *holy monastery*.

*Deacon:* In the \_\_\_ tone:<sup>2</sup> God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. ✠ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

✠ God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. *(And so, after each of the following verses.)*

✠ All nations compassed me round about, but in the Name of the Lord have I driven them back. ✠

✠ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. ✠

✠ The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. ✠

*Then the choir sings the appointed Troparia. On Sundays, the Troparion of the Resurrection in the tone of the week is sung twice, Glory... Troparion from the Menaion, Now and ever... Resurrectional Theotokion in the same tone as the Menaion Troparion. If there are two Troparia from the Menaion, The Resurrectional Troparion is sung only once, then the first Troparion from the Menaion, Glory... second Troparion from the Menaion, Now and ever... Resurrectional Theotokion in the tone of the second Menaion Troparion. On Great Feasts, the Festal Troparion is sung three times. At Festal Matins on a weekday in honor of a saint, the Troparion from the Menaion is sung twice, Glory...now and ever... Resurrectional Theotokion in the tone of the Menaion Troparion.*

*After the choir finishes the Troparia, the reader begins the appointed kathismata from the Psalter. After the first reading, the deacon says the Little Litany:*

*Deacon:* Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

✠ Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

✠ Lord, have mercy.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, 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.

✠ To Thee, O Lord.

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<sup>2</sup> *The tone of the first troparion.*

*Priest:* For Thine is the might, and 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.

℟ Amen.

*And the choir begins the first set of Sessional Hymns, as appointed, followed by the second reading from the Psalter. And again, the Little Litany as above, with this exclamation:*

*Priest:* For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory...

*And the choir begins the second set of Sessional Hymns, as appointed. The choir then sings the Polyeleos or Psalm 118,<sup>3</sup> as appointed. The Polyeleos is often abbreviated, and an abbreviated form can be found in the Appendix on pg. 39.*

## THE POLYELEOS

### PSALM 134

Praise the Name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, you that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to His Name, for He is gracious! For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel as His own possession. For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is Who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, Who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. He it was Who smote the first-born of Egypt, both of man and of beast; Who in thy midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all His servants; Who smote many nations and slew mighty kings, Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan, and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to His people Israel. Thy Name, O Lord, endures forever, Thy renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. For the Lord will vindicate His people, and have compassion on His servants. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not, they have eyes, but they see not, they have ears, but they hear not, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Like them be those who make them! -- yea, every one who trusts in them! O house of Israel, bless the Lord! O house of Aaron, bless the Lord! O house of Levi, bless the Lord! You that fear the Lord, bless the Lord! Blessed be the Lord from Zion, He Who dwells in Jerusalem!

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<sup>3</sup> *On the three Sundays before Lent: Prodigal Son, Meatfare, and Cheesefare, following the Polyeleos, the choir sings Psalm 136: By the waters of Babylon... See the Appendix on pg. 39 for the text of this psalm.*

## PSALM 135

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for His mercy endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord of Lords, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who by understanding made the heavens, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who spread out the earth upon the waters, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who made the great lights, for His mercy endures forever; the sun to rule over the day, for His mercy endures forever; the moon and stars to rule over the night, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who smote the first-born of Egypt, for His mercy endures forever; and brought Israel out from among them, for His mercy endures forever; with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who divided the Red Sea in sunder, for His mercy endures forever; and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His mercy endures forever; but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy endures forever; to Him Who smote great kings, for His mercy endures forever; and slew famous kings, for His mercy endures forever; Sihon, king of the Amorites, for His mercy endures forever; and Og, king of Bashan, for His mercy endures forever; and gave their land as a heritage, for His mercy endures forever; a heritage to Israel His servant, for His mercy endures forever. It is He Who remembered us in our low estate, for His mercy endures forever; and rescued us from our foes, for His mercy endures forever; He Who gives food to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever. O give thanks to the God of heaven, for His mercy endures forever.

*At Festal Matins, following the Polyeleos, the clergy sing together the Magnification given in the Menaion or Pentecostarion for the feast or saint. After the clergy sing the Magnification once, the choir repeats it, along with the selected Psalm verses, as the clergy make a full censuring of the church. On Sundays, the Magnification is sung only once by the clergy, and the choir immediately continues with the Evlogitaria: Blessed art Thou, O Lord...*

*On Sundays where the Magnification is not called for, the choir finishes the Polyeleos or Psalm 118 and immediately begins the Evlogitaria: Blessed art Thou, O Lord...*

## EVLOGITARIA: BLESSED ART THOU, O LORD

### *Tone 5*

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes!

The angelic host was filled with awe when it saw Thee among the dead. By destroying the power of death, O Savior, Thou didst raise Adam and save all men from hell.

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes!

In the tomb the radiant angel cried to the myrrh-bearers: “Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand! The Savior is risen from the dead.”

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes!

Very early in the morning the myrrh-bearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb. But an angel came to them and said: “The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the Resurrection to the Apostles.”

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes!

The myrrh-bearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy tomb, but the angel said to them: “Why do you number the living among the dead? Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb.”

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

We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in essence. We cry with the Seraphim: “Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.”

℟. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since thou gavest birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin, thou didst deliver Adam from his sin. Thou gavest joy to Eve instead of sadness. The God and man Who was born of thee has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

*Following the Evlogitaria (or after the Magnification, on weekdays), the deacon says the Little Litany, with this exclamation:*

*Priest:* For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom...

*The choir then continues, on Sundays, with the hypakoë from the Octoechos, followed by the Hymns of Ascent. At Festal Matins on weekdays, the choir instead continues with the Sessional Hymns appointed for the feast, followed by the first antiphon of the Hymns of Ascent in Tone 4: From my youth...*

From my youth many passions have fought against me, but do Thou help me and save me, O my Savior.

You who hate Zion shall be put to shame by the Lord; you shall be withered up like grass by the fire.

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

Every soul is enlivened by the Holy Spirit and is exalted in purity, illumined by the Holy Trinity in a sacred mystery.

*When the hymns have concluded, the deacon chants the appointed Matins prokeimenon. At Festal Matins, the prokeimenon is taken from the Menaion or Pentecostarion. On Sundays, the prokeimenon is in the tone of the week:*

#### STONE 1

“I will now arise,” says the Lord, / “I will set Myself for salvation and not draw back from it.” *(Ps. 11:5b)*

✠. The words of the Lord are pure words. *(Ps. 11:6a)*

#### STONE 2

Arise, O Lord my God, in the decree which Thou hast commanded / and the assembly of peoples will surround Thee. *(Ps. 7:7a)*

✠. O Lord my God, in Thee have I put my trust: save me. *(Ps. 7:1a)*

#### STONE 3

Say among the nations that the Lord is King, / for He has established the world so that it shall never be moved. *(Ps. 95:9b-10a)*

✠. O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. *(Ps. 95:1)*

#### STONE 4

Arise, O Lord, and help us: / deliver us for Thy Name’s sake. *(Ps. 43:27)*

✠. O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us. *(Ps. 43:1a)*



## tone 5

Arise, O Lord my God; let Thy hand be lifted up, / for Thou dost reign forever.  
(Ps. 9:32a, 36a)

✠ I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. (Ps. 9:1)

## tone 6

O Lord, stir up Thy might / and come to save us. (Ps. 79:3)

✠ Hear, O Thou Shepherd of Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.  
(Ps. 79:1)

## tone 7

Arise, O Lord my God, and let Thy hand be lifted up: / forget not Thy poor forever. (Ps. 9:32)

✠ I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. (Ps. 9:1)

## tone 8

The Lord will reign forever: / thy God, O Zion, to all generations. (Ps. 145:10)

✠ Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live I will praise the Lord. (Ps. 145:1a)

*And then:*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For holy art Thou, O our God, Who restest in the sanctuary, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

℟ Amen.

*And immediately:*

*Deacon:* Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

℟️ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary, praise Him in His mighty firmament!

℟️ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Let everything that breathes:

℟️ praise the Lord!

*Deacon:* And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

℟️ Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

℟️ And to thy spirit.

*Priest:* The reading from the holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

℟️ Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*And the priest reads the appointed Gospel. At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

℟️ Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*On Sundays, the choir then sings* Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ... *once. At Festal Matins, Having beheld... is not sung, and the reader immediately begins Psalm 50.*<sup>4</sup>

*Choir:* Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy Resurrection; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy Name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection. For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection, for by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

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<sup>4</sup> *On Sundays between Pascha and Ascension, Having beheld... is sung thrice. During Paschaltide, and on Ascension Day and 14 September, we sing* Having beheld... *once before Psalm 50, regardless of the day of the week.*

## PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thine altar.

*Then the choir sings the appointed verses and Post-Gospel Sticheron. On Sundays, the following verses are used:*

### *Tone 2*

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

Through the prayers of the Apostles, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgression.

Jesus has risen from the tomb, as He foretold, granting us eternal life and great mercy.

*But on Sundays of the Triodion, the idiomela of repentance are sung instead:*

*Tone 8*

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

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-giver, for my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy holy Temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Thy compassion, purify me by the loving-kindness of Thy mercy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God, for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins and have wasted my life in laziness; but by thine intercessions, deliver me from all impurity.

*Tone 6*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

When I think of the many evil things I have done, wretch that I am, I tremble at the fearful day of judgement; but trusting in Thy loving-kindness, like David I cry to Thee: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy!"

*At the conclusion of these hymns, the deacon begins the Great Intercession:*

*Deacon:* O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary... [...] <sup>5</sup> ...of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna and of all Thy saints, we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy on us.

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

*Priest:* Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Thine only-begotten Son with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

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<sup>5</sup> Due to its length, the full text of this petition has been excluded here. The petition should not be abbreviated in this fashion. Clergy should reference the Hieratikon, © St. Tikhon's Monastery Press, 2017, for the full text of this petition.

*And immediately the singers begin the appointed Canons with the appropriate Katavasiae. Meanwhile the clergy in order, followed by the people, come forward to venerate the Gospel (on Sundays) or the icon of the feast (on feast days). After the priest has venerated, he stands to the north of the analogion, facing south, and blesses with his right hand each of the faithful who comes forward (or, on feast days, he anoints with blessed oil the people who come forward, after which they receive the blessed bread and wine from a server or another priest).*

*After the Third Ode, the deacon says the Little Litany as above, with this exclamation:*

*Priest:* For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory...

*And the choir sings the Sessional Hymns from the Menaion, and then continues with the Fourth Ode of the canon. After the Sixth Ode, the deacon says the Little Litany as above, with this exclamation:*

*Priest:* For Thou art the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory...

*And the choir sings the appointed Kontakion, after which the reader reads the Ikos.<sup>6</sup>*

*After the Eighth Ode, the choir sings:*

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages. *And the* Katavasia.

*After the katavasia, the deacon, standing with the censer before the icon of the Mother of God, exclaims:<sup>7</sup>*

*Deacon:* The Theotokos and the Mother of the Light let us magnify in song.

*And the choir immediately begins the Magnificat, on the following page:*

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<sup>6</sup> In some places, the Synaxarion (the lives of the saints of the day) is read after the ikos.

<sup>7</sup> On the great feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, as also on 30 January, the Magnificat is not sung, and the deacon does not say, "The Theotokos and the Mother of the Light..." Thus he does not wait by the icon of the Mother of God, but may continue to cense through the Ninth Ode. In some traditions, however, when the Magnificat is not sung, the deacon himself sings the first Megalynarion of the Ninth Ode, standing before the icon of the Mother of God or the icon of the feast and swinging the censer.

## ODE 9 - THE MAGNIFICAT

✠ My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

✠ More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee. *(And so, after each of the following verses.)*

✠ For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. ✠

✠ For He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him, from generation to generation. ✠

✠ He has shown strength with His arm. He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ✠

✠ He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree; He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich He has sent empty away. ✠

✠ He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever. ✠

*And the choir continues with the Ninth Ode of the canon. After the katavasia of the Ninth Ode, the deacon says the Little Litany as above, with this exclamation:*

*Priest:* For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we send up glory...

*Then the appointed Exapostilaria are sung or read. But on Sundays,<sup>8</sup> after the Little Litany and before the Exapostilaria, the deacon says:*

*Deacon:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Deacon:* For holy is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Deacon:* Over all peoples is our God.

*Choir:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*And the appointed Exapostilaria are sung or read, and the choir then begins the Praises:*

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<sup>8</sup> *And on Lazarus Saturday and Great and Holy Saturday.*

*Choir:* Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! To Thee, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you angels of His! Praise Him, all His hosts! To Thee, O God, is due a song!

*And the reader continues with the rest of Psalms 148, 149, and 150, until the beginning of the stichera. The stichera are inserted between the reader's verses according to the number appointed. In some places, the reader omits the psalms until the first sticheron and instead begins with the numbered psalm verse immediately preceding the first sticheron.*

### **PSALM 148**

Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars. Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Name of the Lord. For He commanded and they were created. And He established them for ever and ever; He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command. Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars. Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds. Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth. Young men and maidens together, old men and children. Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel who are near to Him.

### **PSALM 149**

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in his Maker, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise His Name with dancing, making melody to Him with timbrel and lyre. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to wreak vengeance on the nations and chastisement on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron,

✠ (6) To execute on them the judgment written. This is glory for all His faithful ones.

### **PSALM 150**

✠ (5) Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament.

✠ (4) Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

✠ (3) Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp.

✠ (2) Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe.

✠ (1) Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

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

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*On Sundays, eight stichera are appointed, and with the last two the following verses are used:*

✠ Arise, O Lord my God; let Thy hand be lifted up, for Thou dost reign forever.

✠ I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will speak of all Thy marvelous works.

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

*The appointed Gospel Sticheron, or the Doxasatichon from the Menaion, when appointed.*

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *And the following Theotokion in Tone 2:*

Thou art most blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, for through the God and Man Who was born of Thee, hell has been captured and Adam recalled, the curse has been annulled and Eve set free; death has been slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, Whose good will it was: Glory to Thee!

*After the final sticheron, the priest exclaims:*

*Priest:* Glory to Thee Who hast shown us the light!

*And the choir sings the Great Doxology, on the following page:*



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of Father have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. (*thrice*)

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

*And the choir sings the appointed Troparia. On Sundays, the following troparia are sung:*

*If the Tone of the Week is Tone 1, Tone 3, Tone 5, or Tone 7, this Troparion:*

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to Him Who rose from the dead, the Author of our life. Having destroyed death by death, He has given us the victory and great mercy.

*If the Tone of the Week is Tone 2, Tone 4, Tone 6, or Tone 8, this Troparion:*

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst destroy the bonds of death. By destroying the condemnation of death, O Lord, Thou didst deliver all men from the snares of the enemy. By revealing Thyself to Thine Apostles, Thou didst send them to proclaim Thee. Through them Thou hast given peace to the universe, O only Merciful One.

*After the Troparia have been sung, the deacon begins the Augmented Litany:*<sup>9</sup>

*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

℟ Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Again we pray for our Metropolitan *N.*, for our Bishop [*or Archbishop*] *N.*, and for all our brethren in Christ. ℟

Again we pray for this country, its President [*or title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces. ℟

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*or* holy monastery); [*for NN.,*] and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord. ℟

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, [*NN., and for*] the brethren of this holy temple, and for the pardon and remission of their sins. ℟

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy. ℟

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

℟ Amen.

*And the Morning Litany:*

*Deacon:* Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

℟ Grant this, O Lord. (*after each petition*)

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<sup>9</sup> *But in some traditions, when the Divine Liturgy is to be celebrated immediately following Matins, it begins now, after the troparion at the end of the Great Doxology..*

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord. *R̄*

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord. *R̄*

All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord. *R̄*

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord. *R̄*

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask. *R̄*

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, 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.

*R̄* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*R̄* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*R̄* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

*R̄* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O holy Lord Who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart, and with Thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation: unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat Thee, O Holy of holies: stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, granting us Thine earthy and heavenly good things.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*R̄* Amen.

*And the* Dismissal:

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

✠ Father, bless.

*Priest:* Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

✠ Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

*Priest:* Most holy Theotokos, save us.

✠ More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

✠ 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 (*thrice*). Father, bless.

*The priest pronounces the appropriate* Dismissal, *after which the choir responds:*

✠ Amen.<sup>10</sup>

## THE END OF THE ALL-NIGHT VIGIL



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<sup>10</sup> *If the First Hour is to follow, the reader begins here after the choir with* Come, let us worship...

## APPENDIX

### PSALM 103 (*Abbreviated*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

O Lord my God, Thou art very great.

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Thou art clothed with honor and majesty.

℟. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

The waters stood above the mountains.

℟. How glorious are Thy works, O Lord.

The waters flow between the hills.

℟. How glorious are Thy works, O Lord.

In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

℟. Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who 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. (*thrice*)

**THE FIRST KATHISMA: BLESSED IS THE MAN** *(Abbreviated)*

Blessed is the man who walks not in the council of the wicked.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. *(thrice)*

**PSALM 136: BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON**  
*sung on the three Sundays preceding Great Lent*

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. *℟️ Alleluia.*

On the willows in the midst thereof we hung up our harps. *℟️ Alleluia.*

For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors required mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" *℟️ Alleluia.*

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? *℟️ Alleluia.*

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! *℟️ Alleluia.*

Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember thee, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! *℟️ Alleluia.*

Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down, tear it down to its foundations!" *℟️ Alleluia.*

O daughter of Babylon, thou wretched one! Blessed shall he be who requites thee with what thou hast done to us! *℟️ Alleluia.*

Blessed is he who takes thy little ones and dashes them against the rock!  
*℟️ Alleluia.*

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**THE POLYELEOS** *(Abbreviated)*

Praise the Name of the Lord, O you servants of the Lord.

*℟️ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Blessed be the Lord from Zion, He Who dwells in Jerusalem.

*℟️ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

*℟️ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

O give thanks unto the God of heaven, for His mercy endures forever.

*℟️ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*