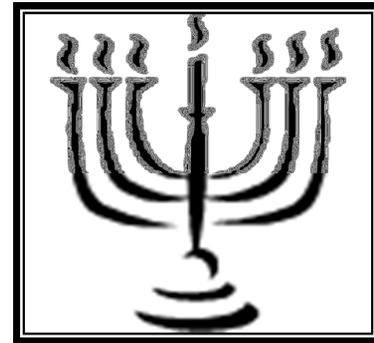


# Daily Vespers

Praise for the Light



**The  
Evangelical  
Orthodox  
Church**

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

6

Angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and the guards became like dead men. Mary stood at the tomb seeking Your most pure Body. You despoiled Hell without a challenge. You, the Giver of Life met the Virgin. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

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

7

You have destroyed Death by Your cross; You opened Paradise to the thief. The sorrow of the myrrh-bearers You turned to joy. You commanded Your apostles to proclaim: Christ our God, You have risen, granting great mercy to the world.

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

8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One, You accepted burial for three days to free us from our passions. O Lord our Resurrection and our Life, glory to You.

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

When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hell by the brilliance of Your divinity; and when You raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You!

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

3

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the might of His arm. By His death the Lord has trampled Death; He has become the first-born of the dead; He has delivered us from the depths of Hell and has granted great mercy to the world.

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

4

The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the women disciples from the angel, and casting off the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: Death is despoiled; Christ our God is risen, giving great mercy to the world.

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

5

O faithful, let us praise and adore the Word eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He chose to ascend the cross in the flesh and to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### **A Few Words Concerning This Service**

The primitive Church was familiar with the concept of the sanctification of evening by appropriate prayer, and expressed it through simple liturgical forms. This familiarity came from their heritage in Judaism.

In the Old Testament we read: "And when Aaron sets up the lamps in the evening, he shall burn incense before them, perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations" (Ex. 30:8). Even after the destruction of the temple the Jews were reminded in the Talmud that, while performing this ritual, they were to offer glory and praise to God. Lighting a lamp, burning incense before it, and offering praise and glory to God; these actions formed the core of the evening service.

Jews who became Christians continued this practice, finding a theme in apostolic preaching which both renewed and heightened the meaning of the tradition. Christ the Savior called himself the "light of the world" (John 8:12). The gladsome light of the evening lamp brought to remembrance Him "that was the true light, which enlightens every man who comes into the world" (John 1:9). Burning during the gathering for prayer, the lamp was a vivid reminder to the assembly of the spiritual presence of Christ the Light.

Many references can be found in post apostolic writings which verify that this practice was common in the early centuries of the church. Evening is understood as the beginning of a new day in which, even as we enter a time of darkness in deathlike sleep, we do so with faith and peace, for Christ is our light. The service as it developed over the centuries presents to us creation, the fall, redemption, and the eschaton (last things); but the central proclamation of the service remains: "O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of God the Father immortal; the heavenly, the holy, the blessed Jesus Christ."

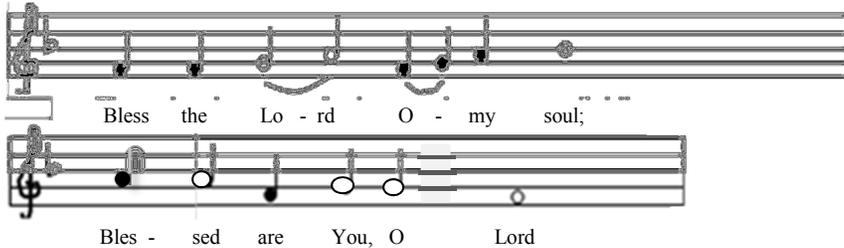
Introductory prayers, such as the Trisagion Prayers (pg. 15), may be prayed, incense prepared, etc. When it is time, the Priest sings or says the following greeting, and the people sing or say their response:

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

**People: Amen. Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our God and our King! Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our God and our King!**

### **CREATION - PS. 104, Blessing God for All Things**

Psalm 104 can be read, or a song such as the following can be sung.



Cantor: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! You are clothed in majesty and splendor, robed in light, as with a cloak. \*

How manifold are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom have You made them all! They all look to You, hoping for food in due season; You give it to them and they gather it up, You open Your hand and they eat their fill. \*

May the glory of the Lord last forever! May the Lord take pleasure in all his works! I will sing to the Lord all my life, I will sing for joy in my God as long as I live! May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord! Bless the Lord, O my soul! \*

Let us glorify Christ, the Savior of our souls, who arose from the dead; For He took upon himself a body and soul, and during the Passion He separated the one from the other. His pure soul went down to conquer Hell, while His holy Body lay uncorrupted in the grave.

O Christ, we glorify Your Resurrection with psalms and hymns, for by Your victory over death You delivered us from Hell's sufferings, and as God You granted us eternal life and great mercy.

O Lord of all, Creator of heaven and earth, You are above all understanding. Through Your Passion on the cross, You freed us from the suffering of Hell. And, after condescending to be buried, You arose in glory; and with Your mighty arm You also raised up Adam. O most merciful Lord, we glorify You; for by Your Resurrection on the third day, You granted us remission of sins and eternal life.

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

### **TROPARION RESURRECTION THEME VERSES FOR SATURDAYS & EASTER**

The stone was sealed by the Jews; soldiers guarded Your most pure Body, but You, O Savior arose on the third day granting life to the world. Therefore, the heavenly powers acclaimed You, O Giver of Life. Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your salvation! You alone love us all.

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

O Christ, You were crucified of Your own free will and by Your burial, You imprisoned death. As God, You rose in glory on the third day, granting life and great mercy to the world.

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

7

O Savior of the world, You arose from the grave, and together with Your own flesh You raised up all of us. O Lord, glory to You!

Come, let us worship Christ who arose from the dead, and enlightened all creation. For by His Resurrection on the third day, He set us free from the oppression of Hell, granting us life and His great mercy.

O Christ, Lover of us all, You descended into Hell and destroyed death, then You arose on the third day; and, together with yourself, You lifted up all of us who glorify You mighty Resurrection.

O Lord, what a fearful sight it was to see You lying in the tomb as if asleep. Yet on the third day You arose in great power, and at the same time You raised up Adam who joyfully cried out: O Lover of us all, glory to You!

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

8

O Jesus, You descended from heaven so that You might ascend the Cross. O Immortal Life, You came to die. You are the true light to those who live in darkness, and You are the Resurrection of all the dead. Therefore, O Savior of all, we glorify You.

## **FALL – PS. 141/130, Incense and Plea**

*The Daily Psalms (Kathisma) may be inserted here (see pages 15-17).*

**Priest:** You, O Lord, took dust from the earth and formed us, and breathed into our souls Your own living breath; You placed us in charge of all the visible things on this earth. You made us fellow citizens of the angelic powers, but the fallen angel used the serpent as his instrument and enticed us with food to draw us away from You. He has dragged us down to the very depths of death, for he has made us victims of his insidious deception. In Your compassion, Master, call us back to paradise!

Additional  
Incense  
Prayers or  
Creation/Fall  
transition  
prayers can  
be found on  
pages 18-19

*The Deacon censens during which a song like the following is sung.*



O Lord— I— cry to You,— hear me! Hear my voice when I



call to You,— hear me! Let my prayer rise like



in - cense be - fore You,— my hands like the eve - ning sac - ri - fice!

*The Priest or cantor sings the following verses:*

**Cantor:** Set a guard at my mouth, O Lord; keep a watch at the door of my lips. Let not my heart turn to wrong, to doing evil with wicked men or joining in their feasting. **O Lord...hear me!**

Let a just one discipline me - it is a kindness if a faithful one corrects me - but never let the oil of the wicked anoint my head. **O Lord...hear me!**

Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears attend to my call for mercy. For if You, Lord, mark our guilt, who will survive? But with You is found forgiveness, for this we revere You. **O Lord...hear me!**

I wait on the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**People: (Sing complete song once more)**

**REDEMPTION (Ps. 117), Praise for the Light**

Priest: God has heard our cry. Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Let us honor in song the God-bearer and Mother of the Light.

*If there is to be a procession from the back, as a song such as the following is sung, the Deacon takes light from the altar area and brings it to the Priest, then leads him with incense to the back, and they remain there until after the Theotokion and following prayer.*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes, and guitar chords are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: "It is truly right to bless you, O The-o - so - nos, ev - er bless - ed, and most pure, and the mo - ther of our God. More hon - ra - ble". The chords shown are C#m, F#m, C#m, F#b, F#m, F#b, C#m, F#b, F#m, Ab, Db, C#m, and F.

O Lover of us all, Your crucifixion and descent into Hell are most wondrous; For, as God, You thereby conquered the power of Hell and raised up in glory (with yourself) those who were long imprisoned there. You reopened Paradise and enabled them to enter. Grant forgiveness of sins to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day; for You alone are all merciful.

O Lover of us all, You accepted suffering in the flesh and rose from the dead on the third day. Therefore heal the passion of our flesh, raise us from our dreadful iniquities, and save us.

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

O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing the praises of Your Resurrection; make us (on earth) also worthy to extol and glorify You with a pure heart.

Almighty God, You destroyed the brazen gates and bars of Hell, and raised up fallen mankind. Therefore, with one accord we cry out: O Lord risen from the dead, glory to You.

Christ willed to renew us from our corruption of old by being nailed to a cross and placed in a tomb. When the women came to anoint His body, they tearfully cried out: O what sorrow afflicts us! O Savior of all, how could You consent to rest in a grave? If You truly willed this, why then did You allow Your Body to be stolen? How were You removed? What place now conceals Your life-bearing Body? O Lord, appear to us as You promised, and put an end to our tears. As they were lamenting, an angel appeared and cried out to them: Do not weep, but tell the apostles that the Lord is risen, granting sanctification and great mercy to the world.

By hanging on the Cross, O Almighty One, You shook the whole creation to its foundations. When You yourself were laid in the grave, You raised to life those who had been lying in the graves, and You granted life and incorruption to all of us. We therefore praise and glorify Your third day Resurrection.

O Christ, the lawless people showed their ingratitude to You, their benefactor, by delivering You to Pilate who condemned You to be crucified. But You willingly suffered death and burial, and as God, You rose by Your own power on the third day, granting us everlasting life and great mercy.

The women, shedding bitter tears, came to see You in Your tomb; and not finding Your Body, they lamented, saying: O Savior and King of all, how were You stolen? What place holds Your life-giving Body? An angel answered them, saying: Do not weep! Go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, filling our hearts with joy, for He alone is most compassionate.

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

5

O Christ our Savior, we lift up our voices in song to glorify You. For in Your love for us all, You cast down the gates of Hell; and on the third day You arose from the dead for the salvation of our souls.

O Giver of Life, streams of forgiveness, life, and salvation poured forth from Your pierced side upon us all. By accepting physical death, You granted us immortality; by lying in the tomb, You freed us from Hell, and as God, by rising from the dead, You raised us with yourself in glory. Therefore, we cry out to You: O Lover of us all, glory to You!

— than the cher-u-bim, and more glor-i-ous be-yond ev-ery-thing  
 pare than the ser-a-pim in vir-gin-i-ty  
 — you gave birth to God the Word True  
 The-o-to-kos, we mag-ni-fy you.

Priest: You, O Christ, are the true light that enlightens and sanctifies every man who comes into this world! Sign us with the light of Your face, that we may recognize in it that eternal radiance which by nature is Yours. And by the prayers of Your most pure Mother and all Your holy ones, direct our steps in the performance of Your commandments.

Additional Prayers for Light can be found on pages 20-22

That we may ever give glory to You, Your eternal Father, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**People: Amen.**

*If not done before, the Deacon brings light from the sanctuary according to local custom and hands it to the Priest. The Priest signs the people with the light and says or sings:*

Priest: ✠ Behold the light of Christ: Behold the light of the universe!

*As a song such as the following is sung, (procession is made) the light is returned to the sanctuary and from it the altar candles and other candles are lit. If necessary, soft house lights can be tuned on as well.*

O Glad-some Light of the ho-ly glo-ry of God the Fa-ther Im-mor-tal;—The  
 hea-ven-ly, the ho-ly, the bles-sed Je-sus Christ.—— Now as we  
 come to the set-ting sun, be-hold-ing the ev-'ning light, we praise God—the  
 Fa-ther, the Son and Ho-ly Spir-it Who are God.—— Wor-thy it  
 is—to sing to Thee, with voi-ces of praise at all times. O—Son of—  
 God,—Giv-er of Life;— Let all the world glo-ri-fy—Thee!

**SCRIPTURE READING(S)**

Priest: Please be seated and give your attention to tonight's readings.

O Christ, who darkened the sun by Your Passion, and enlightened all creation by Your Resurrection, accept our evening prayer; for You love us all.

O Lord, Your life-giving Resurrection has enlightened the entire universe and has revived Your creation which lay in corruption; therefore, we, who have been released from the curse of Adam, cry out to You; Almighty Lord, glory to You!

O God, although in Your divine nature You are unchangeable, yet in Your human nature You underwent change by suffering in the flesh. All creation was prostrate with fear when it saw You hanging on the Cross, and it groaned in sorrow as it sang the praises of Your long-suffering. But You descended into Hell and on the third day arose, granting life and great mercy to the world.

You suffered death, O Christ, to deliver us all from death, and when You arose from the dead on the third day You enlightened the world and resurrected all who acknowledge You as God.

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

In being lifted upon the Cross, O Lord, You abolished the curse which we had inherited from our fore bearers. By going down to Hell, You freed from eternal captivity those imprisoned there, and granted incorruption to the human race. We, therefore, praise Your life-giving and redeeming Resurrection.

The myrrh-bearing women were filled with grief as they hastened with spices to Your tomb; but they did not find Your most pure Body. Instead, they found an angel who proclaimed Your unique and glorious Resurrection and commanded them to announce to the Apostles: The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

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

2

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has enlightened the whole universe; and through it, You call back to yourself all creation. Almighty God, glory to You.

By the wood of Your Cross, O Savior, You have abolished the curse of the tree; by Your burial You have destroyed Death's power; and by Your Resurrection You enlightened the human race. We therefore cry out to You: O Christ our God, Giver of Life, glory to You.

O Christ, when You were nailed to the Cross, the distorted nature of creation was made manifest. The soldiers showed their inhumanity by piercing Your side with a lance, and the people showed their ignorance of Your power by asking that Your tomb be sealed. But in Your mercy, You accepted burial and then arose on the third day. O Lord, glory to You.

O Christ the Giver of Life, You freely suffered the Passion for the sake of mortals. In Your power, You descended into Hell; and snatching, as from a mighty monster, the souls of those who awaited Your coming, You placed them in Paradise. Therefore, show Your great mercy to us who glorify Your Resurrection, and cleanse us of our sins.

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

24

*Readings from the lectionary are now offered, interspersed with songs or verses (prokiemenon) if desired (see pages 22-23). Devotional comments, etc. may be given. Then the Deacon begins the Litany:*

### **LITANY**

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord have mercy.** *(Here and after each petition.)*

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

For peace throughout the world, the well-being of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us ↑pray to the Lord.

For this holy gathering, and for those who have entered it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us ↓pray to the Lord.

For our Bishop (N.), our Priest (N.), our Deacon (N.), and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, let us ↑pray to the Lord.

For this nation and for all its people, for those who work in its service, and for all its troubles, let us ↓pray to the Lord.

For this city and county, for every city and country, and for everyone who lives in them, let us ↑pray to the Lord.

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

For those who travel by land and sea and air, for the sick, the suffering, and the oppressed, and for those who are held captive, and for their salvation, let us ↑pray to the Lord.

9

For... *(special concerns are offered here)*... let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath danger, and need, let us ↓pray to the Lord.

Help and save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Your grace. As we call to mind our most holy, most pure and glorious Lady, the God-Bearer and blessed Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our entire life to Christ, our God.

**People: To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People: Amen.**

**All: Count us worthy, Lord, of passing this evening without sin. Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be Your name forever! Let Your mercy descend upon us, Lord, for we place our hope in You. Blessed are You, Lord teach me Your law. Blessed are You, Master, make me understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, Holy One, fill my mind with the wisdom of Your decrees! Despise not the work which Your hands have done: remember, Lord, Your mercy is eternal. And eternally do You deserve all our praise, all our songs of glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen!**

Deacon: Now let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy!**

goes before me, and your mercy goes before me.

Verse: Rescue me, O God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me.

**Saturday:** The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns; He is clothed in majesty.

Verse: (a) Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength. (b) The world he made firm, not to be moved. (c) Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

#### APOSTICHA RESURRECTION THEME VERSES FOR SATURDAYS & THE EASTER SEASON

O Christ, by Your Passion we have been freed from our passions; and by Your Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption. O Lord, glory to You!

Let all creation rejoice, let the heavens be glad, let the nations clap their hands with joy; for Christ our Savior, in His love for us all, has nailed our sins to the Cross. He has put Death to death, and by raising our forefather Adam, He has given life to all of us.

O God, You are above all understanding, You are King and Lord of heaven and earth. Yet of Your own free will, You allowed yourself to be crucified because of Your love for us all. When You descended below, Hades was filled with bitterness as You confronted it; but the souls of the just received You with great joy. Adam arose when He saw You, His Creator, down in the depths. What a wonder this is! You are the Life of all and have tasted death in order to dispel the darkness of the world by Your light. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

And, enlightened by the exercise of Your commandments, may we rise up in joyfulness of soul to the glorification of Your goodness, and offer supplications and prayers unto Your tenderness of heart, for our own sins and those of all Your people, whom do You look upon in mercy, through the intercessions of the holy God-bearer.

For You are a good God who loves mankind, and unto You 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.**

### **Prokiemenon, Theme Verses (Troparia) & Canticles**

**Sunday:** Come, bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord; come, bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord.

Verse: Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

**Monday:** The Lord hears me whenever I call him, whenever I call him.

Verse: When I call, answer me, O God of justice.

**Tuesday:** Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me, your mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want;

**Wednesday:** O Lord save me by your name; by your power uphold my cause.

Verse: O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

**Thursday:** My help shall come, my help shall come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Verse: I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help.

**Friday:** You, O God, are my defender, and your mercy

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

**People: Grant it, O Lord** (*here and after each of the following*).

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

For the forgiveness and remission of all our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

For all that is good and useful for our souls, and for peace throughout the world, let us ask of the Lord.

For peace and repentance throughout the rest of our lives, let us ask of the Lord.

For a Christian end to our lives: unashamed, peaceful, and without suffering, and for the right answer before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Calling to mind once again our most holy, most pure and glorious Lady, the God-bearer and blessed Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our entire life to Christ our God.

**People: To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are good and full of love for us, O God, and we give You glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People: Amen.**

*If it is the local custom for the Trisagion Prayers, including the Our Father, to be offered later, the Our Father is omitted here. Otherwise, it is said now as a collect of the Litany.*

Deacon: Let us collect our prayers in the prayer our Lord taught us saying,

**People: Our Father, who art in heaven...**

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.

**People: Amen!**

*If it is the local custom, theme verses (Aposticha) or canticles may be inserted here (see pages 23-29 ). Then the Priest continues:*

Priest: ☩ Peace be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**People: To you, O Lord.**

Priest: You suspended the heavens over the earth, O Lord our God, and then You came down from them to save us. Look down, now, upon Your servants and heirs, as they bow their heads and bend their necks to You, their awesome but merciful judge! It is not from men that they expect help, but from You that they hope for mercy and salvation. Protect them this evening and throughout the coming night from all their enemies, from every assault of the powers of hell, from vain and useless thoughts, and from evil memories. Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People: Amen.**

### **ESCHATON – Dismissal and Benediction**

*All sing the following song or another, or simply speak the words of the Simeon canticle as the Deacon extinguishes the candles, unless it is the custom for the candles to be extinguished after everyone leaves.*

O God, great and wonderful, who, with goodness indescribable and rich providence orders all things and grants unto us earthly goods, who hast given us a pledge of the promised kingdom through the good things already granted unto us, and hast made us to shun all harm during the day that is past, grant that we may also fulfill the remainder of this day blamelessly before Your holy glory, and hymn You, our God, who alone are good and loves mankind.

For You are our God, and unto You 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.**

O great and most high God, who alone has immortality, and dwells in light unapproachable, who hast fashioned all creation in wisdom, who hast divided the light from the darkness, and hast set the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night, who has also vouchsafed unto us sinners at this present hour to come before Your presence with confession and to present unto You our evening doxology, do You Yourself, O Lord, Lover of man, direct our prayer as incense before You, and accept it for an odor of sweet fragrance, and grant that our present evening and coming night be peaceful. Clothe us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the fear of night, and from everything that walks in darkness, and grant that the sleep that You hast given for the repose of our infirmity may be free from every fantasy of the Devil. Yea, O Master of all, Leader of the good, may we, being moved to compunction upon our beds, remember Your name in the night.

## Prayers of Light

Blessed are You, almighty Lord and master, for lighting up the day with the brilliance of the sun, and the night with the brightness of the moon and stars. Blessed are You for allowing us to live through this day and for bringing us to the beginning of another night. Hear the prayers we offer You together with all Your people and forgive us our sins, whether of malice or of weakness. Gather together these evening prayers of ours and bless Your heirs with an abundance of Your mercy and compassion. Surround us with Your holy angels, arm us with weapons of justice, strengthen us in Your truth, protect us with Your mighty power, and deliver us from the snares of the evil one. Make this coming night and every day of our life perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, and preserve us from scandal and from evil dreams, by the prayers of the God-bearer and all Your saints.

For You are one to have mercy on us and save us, O God, and we give You glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. **Amen!**

2

O You to whom the holy Powers sing with unending hymns and unceasing doxologies, fill our mouths with Your praise, that we may magnify Your holy name. And grant unto us an inheritance with all those that fear You in truth and keep Your commandments, through the intercessions of the holy God-bearer and of all Your Saints.

For to You belong 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.**

Now let Your servant—depart in peace—ac-cord-ing to Your word; for my

eyes have seen Your sal - va - tion, which You have pre - pared—be-fore the

A Light—  
face of all peo-ple, a Light of rev-e - la - tion to the Gen - tiles,  
A Light

and to be the glo - ry, of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. A—men.

*If it is the custom to use other theme verses/troparia (see pages 29-31) such as the resurrection troparia on Saturday evenings, and/or to say or sing the Trisagion Prayers again, they may be inserted here.*

*When the song is finished the Deacon says:*

Deacon: Let us go in the light and peace of Jesus Christ!  
**People: Amen!**

Priest: Christ our God, the I Am, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages!

**People: Amen!**

*Then the following or another benediction is given.*

Priest: May He who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ, bless and keep you from all evil, ✠in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

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

whole time of our life may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the holy God-bearer and of all the Saints.

For Yours is the strength, and Yours are 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.**

4

O Lord our God, remember us Your sinful and unprofitable servants when we call upon Your holy, venerable name, and put us not to shame in our expectation of Your mercy, but grant us, O Lord, all our petitions which are unto salvation, and make us worthy to love and fear You with all our hearts, and to do Your will in all things.

For You are a good God who loves mankind, and to You 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.**

5

O Lord, Lord, who upholds all things in the most pure hollow of Your hand, who are long-suffering toward us all, and forgives our wickedness, remember Your compassion and Your mercy. Look upon us with Your goodness; grant unto us also by Your grace, through the remainder of the present day, to avoid the diverse subtle snares of the Evil One, and keep us by the grace of Your all-holy Spirit.

Through the mercy and love of man of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

## Incense Prayers (The Fall)

In the evening, in the morning, and at midday, we praise and bless You, we give thanks to You, and we entreat You, Master of all things, O Lord and Lover of all mankind: let our prayer rise like incense before You and let not our hearts be taken up with evil words or thoughts, but rescue us from all that seeks to destroy our souls. For unto You do we lift up our eyes, and in You have we trusted: do not disappoint us!

For You deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages! **Amen!**

2

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and of great mercy, give heed to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Work upon us a sign for good. Guide us in Your way, that we may walk in Your truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy name. For You are great and work wonders. You alone are God, and among the gods there is none like unto You, O Lord, powerful in mercy, and good in might, to help and to comfort and to save all those that hope in Your holy name.

For to You belong 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.**

3

O Lord, in Your displeasure, rebuke us not, neither chasten us in Your wrath, but deal with us according to Your tenderness O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us unto the haven of Your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts unto the knowledge of Your truth, and grant unto us that the remainder of the present day and the

## **ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

### Trisagion Prayers

Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who is everywhere and fills all things, treasury of blessings and giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.  
(x3)

Glory be 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 Your 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; Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

### Table of Psalm Readings

The Psalm reading schedule of the Orthodox Church is very ambitious and impractical for the typical non-monastic parish. It is designed for the entire Psalter to be read each week, and twice per week during Lent. It is presented here in its entirety with the understanding that at any one Vespers service not all the Psalms will be read. The Psalm(s) chosen at any given service will be at the discretion of the overseer.

The Psalms are grouped, and each group is called a kathisma, (plural kathismata) with each kathisma divided into stases (singular stasis). The following is the grouping used in the Orthodox Church

<b>Kathisma</b>	<b>Stasis 1</b>	<b>Stasis 2</b>	<b>Stasis 3</b>
I	1-3	4-6	7-8
II	9-10	12-14	15-17
III	18	19-21	22-24
IV	25-27	28-30	31-32
V	33-34	35-36	37
VI	38-40	41-43	44-46
VII	47-49	50-51	52-55
VIII	56-58	59-61	62-64
IX	65-67	68	69-70
X	71-72	73-74	75-77
XI	78	79-81	82-85
XII	86-88	89	90-91
XIII	92-94	95-97	98-101
XIV	102-103	104	105
XV	106	107	108-109
XVI	110-112	113-116:1-9	116:10-19-118
XVII	119:1-72	119:73-131	119:132-176
XVIII	120-124	125-129	130-134
XIX	135-137	138-140	141-143
XX	144-145	146-148	149-151*

*\*Since the stasis numbering has been converted from the Septuagint to the Masoretic Text (typical Protestant Bible), the Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical books will have to be used to find Psalm 151; otherwise, just stop at Ps. 150.*

The following tables show the schedule for reading the Psalms. Outside of Great Lent, the following kathismata are read:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Matins</b>	<b>Vespers</b>
<b>Su</b>	II, III	-
<b>M</b>	IV, V	VI
<b>Tu</b>	VII, VIII	IX
<b>W</b>	X, XI	XII
<b>Th</b>	XIII, XIV	XV
<b>F</b>	XIX, XX	XVIII
<b>Sa</b>	XVI, XVII	I

During Great Lent, the following is used:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Matins</b>	<b>First Hour</b>	<b>Third Hour</b>	<b>Sixth Hour</b>	<b>Ninth Hour</b>	<b>Vespers</b>
<b>Su</b>	II, III	-	-	-	-	-
<b>M</b>	IV, V, VI	-	VII	VIII	IX	XVIII
<b>Tu</b>	X, XI, XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVIII
<b>W</b>	XIX, XX, I	II	III	IV	V	XVIII
<b>Th</b>	VI, VII, VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XVIII
<b>F</b>	XIII, XIV, XV	-	XIX	XX	-	XVIII
<b>Sa</b>	XVI, XVII	-	-	-	-	I