

Great Vespers (tone 6), The Sunday after Christmas

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

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

Psalm 104 (103)

Reader: 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 stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: Who maketh his angels spirits: his ministers a flaming fire: Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they do down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heavens have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. he causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth: And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted; Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He

appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto 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 riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping, innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, who thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

The sun knowth his going down. 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. (three times)

O our God and our Hope, Glory to Thee.

The Great Ektenia

Priest: In Peace let us pray to the Lord.

(The Choir responds *Lord have mercy* to each petition).

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

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), N., the honorable presbytery, he diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our president, civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our deliverance from all tribulation, 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.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, 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.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Amen.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED”

TONE 6

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.

The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.

They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.

But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.

Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.

I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.

I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.

In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.

Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.

I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess thy name:

O Christ, Possessor of victory over hades, thou hast ascended the Cross that thou mightest raise with thee those who sit in darkness. O Free among the dead, overflowing with life from thine own light. O Almighty Savior, have mercy upon us.

For the righteous shall await me, until thou recompense me.

Today hath Christ trodden down death, and hath risen as he said. He hath given joy to the world, that we might all shout in praise, O Fountain of life, O unapproachable Light, and Almighty Savior, have mercy upon us.

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.

O Lord, who art in all creation, whither shall we sinners flee from thee? To heaven? For thou dwellest there; or to hades? For there thou art the Trampler over death, or to the depths of the sea? For there is thy hand, O Master. In thee, therefore, seek we refuge, and thee do we worship beseechingly; O thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy upon us.

Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

In thy Cross, O Christ, do we glory, and thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for thou art our God, and beside thee we know no other.

Tone 2 For the Nativity

If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with thee there is forgiveness.

Come let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for he hath broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear shall turn about, and the cherubim shall admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I shall return to enjoy the bliss of paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of his eternity, which it is impossible to change hath taken the likeness of a servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since he remained as he was true god, and took what had not been, having become Man for his love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto him crying, O thou who wast born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us.

Because of thy Name have I waited for thee, O Lord: my soul hath waited upon thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin the whole creation was lighted, the shepherds keeping watch, the Magi worshipping, the angels praising and Herod trembling; for the God and Savior of our souls hath appeared in the flesh.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Thy kingdom, O Christ God, is a kingdom of all ages; and thy rule is from generation to generation; for thou who wast incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became Man from Mary the ever-virgin, hast caused a light to shine on us by thy presence, O Christ God; O Light of Light, O Radiance of the Father, thou hast illuminated all creation; and every breath doth praise thee, O Likeness of the glory of the Father. Wherefore, O everlasting God, who art before eternity, who didst shine forth from the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us.

**Tone 1 For the Sunday after the Nativity *Thou art the joy*
For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.**

Let us all honor the forefather of the Most High God, * even the great King David, for from him there is come forth * a rod, even the Virgin, and of her in truth * Christ the Flower is risen up, * Who from corruption hath rescued Adam and Eve, * in His mercy forming them anew.

Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people.

Joseph, the Virgin's betrothed, clearly saw in deep old age * the things the Prophets foretold now fulfilled manifestly, * when a strange betrothal fell unto his lot, * and when Angels

instructed him, * as they cried: Glory to God, for upon the earth * He hath given peace to all mankind.

For his mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Let us all honor the Brother of God with songs and hymns, * who was a worthy hierarch, and with ven'erable courage * shone in holy martyrdom; now by his prayers, * O Lord Jesus, our only God, * Thou Who wast swaddled within a manger and cave, * save all them that sing Thy praise with hymns.

(tone 6) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

Let us celebrate the memory of David the Prophet-king of true worship, and with him James the Apostle, the first of Bishops; so that being saved from error by their teachings, we may glorify Christ who shone forth incarnate from the Virgin to save our souls.

Tone 6 Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travailing and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend

The Hymn of Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For

meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Give of life; therefore all the world doth glorify thee

Priest: The Evening Prokeimenon

The Vesperal Prokeimena

The Lord is king, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength

The Lord is king, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

The Lord is king,

He is clothed with majesty.

The Ektenia

Priest: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

(the Choir responds Lord, have mercy to the first two petitions.)

O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

(The choir responds Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy to this and the remaining petitions.)

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan, N.

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for *(the servants*

of God, NN., and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God, NN.,*) and 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 those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Evening Prayer

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy be upon us O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master; make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy one: enlighten me with thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages Amen.

The Litany of Supplication

Priest: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (*after the first two petitions.*)

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

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

Choir: Grant, this, O Lord. (*after the remaining petitions*)

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

Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things 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, peaceful and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy immaculate, 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.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: Bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Amen.

Aposticha

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven praise. Make us, who also are on earth, worthy to praise thee with a pure heart.

The Lord hath reigned, He is clothed with beauty the Lord Hath put on his apparel and hath girded himself with strength.

Thou has demolished the brazen gates of hades and crushed it bars; for thou art an almighty God, and didst raise fallen mankind. Wherefore, do we cry to thee in unison, O thou who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee.

For He hath made the round world so that it shall not be moved.

Christ God, when he wished to raise us from the old fall, was nailed on the Cross and placed in a grave. he it was whom the ointment-bearing women did seek, wailing with tears, and saying, Woe to us, Savior of all, how didst thou consent to occupy a grave? And after thy lying therein willingly, how wast thou stolen? How was thou removed? And what place screened thy life-bearing body? Yea, appear to us, O Lord, as thou didst promise us, and put a stop to the shedding of tears. And as they wailed, behold an angel shouted to them, saying, Cease wailing, and say to the Apostles that the Lord is risen, granting the world forgiveness and Great Mercy.

Holiness becometh Thy house forever O Lord.

O Christ God, thou wast crucified as thou willed, Thou led death captive, and arose in glory on the third day, for thou art God, granting the world eternal life and Great Mercy.

Tone 6 Glory to the Father and to the Son and To the Holy Spirit:

Thy Nativity hath become a memorial for the Priests, might and happiness for kings; and in it we take pride, saying, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, O Lover of mankind.

Tone 6 Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today all the angels in heaven exchange glad tidings and rejoice; and the whole creation singeth with joy for the Lord Savior born in Bethlehem; for the error of idols hath entirely disappeared, and Christ reigneth unto all ages.

The Hymn of Simeon the God-receiver

Reader: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord cleanse us from our
sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal
our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Amen.

Troparion

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred body,
angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers
who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led hades
captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the
Virgin and didst give life to the world; O thou that art risen
from the dead! O Lord, Glory to thee.

(tone 2) **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparents of God, the
amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with

Child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to have our souls.

(tone 4) **Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come O Lord, glory to thee.

Priest: Wisdom.

Choir: Father Bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father Bless.

The Great Dismissal

Priest: May He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger and rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother —whose Synaxis we now celebrate—; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and god-bearing fathers; of The Glorious Prophet Elias patron of this Church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of David the King, Joseph the Betrothed and James the Brother of our Lord, whose memory we celebrate and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir: Amen