

The Day of the Holy Spirit
‘Kneeling Vespers’
Great Vespers celebrated on Sunday 8th June 2025

At the beginning:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.
O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth ...

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(x 3)*

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

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

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(x 12)*

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

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

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and

there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (x 3)

THE GREAT LITANY (with additional petitions)

“LORD I CALL ...”

Tone 4

[Music on website / Sheet]

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!

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

Tone 4

[Music on website / Sheet]

Today in the city of David
all the nations beheld glorious wonders,
when the Disciples of Christ had gathered together,
and the Holy Spirit came down in tongues of fire,
as Luke, inspired of God, records:
“A sound came like the rushing of a mighty wind;
it filled all the house where they were sitting,
and they all began to proclaim strange words, strange doctrines,//
strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.”

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.

Repeat: “Today in the city of David...”

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

The Holy Spirit was, and is, and ever shall be,
without beginning, without ending,
always ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son;
He is Life and the Giver of life;
He is Light and the Giver of light;
all-good and the Fountain of goodness,
through Him the Father is known, the Son is glorified;
through Him all people proclaim one power, one ranking, //
one worship of the Holy Trinity.

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

Repeat: "The Holy Spirit was, and is, and ever shall be..."

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

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life,
a living Fountain of spiritual gifts,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
all-knowing, upright and good:
He leads us and washes away our sins.
He is God, and He makes us gods;
He is Fire proceeding from Fire,
speaking and acting and distributing gifts.
Through Him all the Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles of God are crowned.
Strange account, strange and wonderful sight: //
fire is divided for distributing gifts.

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

Repeat: "The Holy Spirit is Light and Life..."

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

Tone 6

O heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere and fillest all things;
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life,
come and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One!

THE ENTRANCE WITH THE CENSER

Priest: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed, Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, the Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be to all!

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Evening Prokeimenon [Music on website / Sheet]
Priest: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who dost wonders.
Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who dost wonders.
Priest: Thou hast made known thy power among the peoples.
Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who dost wonders.
Priest: And I said, now have I begun; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High.
Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who dost wonders.
Priest: I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember thy wonders.
Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who dost wonders.
Priest: Who is so great a God as our God?
Choir: Thou art the God who dost wonders.

FIRST KNEELING PRAYER

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

SECOND KNEELING PRAYER

VOUCHSAFE, O LORD

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

THIRD KNEELING PRAYER

EVENING LITANY

THE PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF THE HEADS

Priest: Peace be to all!
Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads unto the Lord.
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

The Priest reads the Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads:

Priest: ... now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3

[Music on website / Sheet]

Now the fiery tongues
have become a bright sign for all peoples.
The Jews, from whom Christ came according to the flesh,
in their unbelief have fallen from divine grace.
But we, the peoples of all nations,
are made worthy of divine light.
We are strengthened by the words of the Disciples,
who revealed the glory of the Benefactor and God of all.
Let us bend our knees and hearts with them,
since we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, //
bowing down in faith to worship the Savior of our souls!

v. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me!

Now the comforting Spirit
has been poured out on all flesh,
spreading grace to the faithful,
beginning with the choir of the Apostles.
As a pledge of His mighty coming
He distributed the tongues of fire;
He gave them to the Disciples
to the praise and glory of God.
Spiritually enlightened in our hearts,
strengthened in faith by the Holy Spirit,//
let us earnestly pray for salvation for our souls!

v. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me!

Now the Apostles of Christ
are clothed with power from on high.
The Comforter is renewed in them
and renews them with newness of knowledge.
They preach in foreign tongues,
proclaiming mystical knowledge in lofty words.
They teach us to worship the Benefactor and God of all
in His simple, eternal, tri-personal Nature.
Enlightened by their teaching,
let us bow down to worship Father, Son, and Spirit,//
earnestly praying for salvation for our souls!

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

Tone 8

Come, O people,
let us worship the Godhead in three Persons:
the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit.
For the Father timelessly begot the Son, co-eternal and co-enthroned with Him;
and the Holy Spirit was in the Father and is glorified with the Son.
We worship one Power, one Essence, one Godhead,
and we say: "Holy God,
Who hast created all things through Thy Son
with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit;
Holy Mighty,
through Whom we know the Father;
and through Whom the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the world;
Holy Immortal,
Comforting Spirit,
Who proceedest from the Father and retest in the Son.//
O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee!"

THE PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON, THE GOD-RECEIVER

Priest: Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x 3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

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

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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 the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION

Troparion of Pentecost

[Music on website / Green Book page 113]

Tone 8

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God,
Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit;
through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net.//
O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

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

Repeat: "Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God ..."

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

Repeat: "Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God ..."

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: Father, bless.

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

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Reader: More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without defilement gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

Reader: 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, give the blessing.

The Priest gives the blessing.

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