

Vespers and the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: 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; now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

THE LITANY OF PEACE

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 1

[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!

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

Tone 1

[Sheet]

Oh, the marvellous wonder!
The source of Life is laid in a grave,
and the tomb becomes a ladder to heaven.
Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy shrine of the Theotokos!
Let us, the faithful, cry out with Gabriel as our captain:
“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//
He that grants the world great mercy through thee!”

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Repeat: Oh, the marvellous wonder ...

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

Repeat: Oh, the marvellous wonder ...

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.

Oh, the wonder of thy mysteries, pure Lady:
thou wast made the throne of the Most High,
and today thou hast passed from earth to heaven.
Thy glory is full of splendour, shining with grace in divine brightness.
Virgins, be raised to the heights with the Mother of the King!
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//
He that grants the world great mercy through thee!

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

Repeat: Oh, the wonder of thy mysteries ...

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

Repeat: Oh, the wonder of thy mysteries ...

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

The Dominions and Thrones, the Rulers, Principalities and Powers,
the Cherubim and fearsome Seraphim, glorify thy falling asleep.
All those born of earth rejoice,
adorned with honour by thy divine glory.
Kings fall down and sing with the Archangels and Angels:
"Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee, //
He that grants the world great mercy through thee!"

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Repeat: The Dominions and Thrones ...

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

Tone 1

By the divine command the God-bearing Apostles were caught up by clouds from every place.
When they came to thine all-pure body, the source of Life, they kissed it most rev'rently.
The highest Powers of heaven were also present with their Master,
and seized with awe they escorted the inviolate body,
the body that had received God in the flesh.
In a manner beyond this world they went before it and invisibly cried out to the ranks above them:
"Behold, the Queen of all, the Child of God, has come!
Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this world receive the Mother of the everlasting Light,
for through her was accomplished the salvation of all the mortal race!
We cannot gaze upon her,
nor is it possible to render honour worthy of her,
for her excellence surpasses all understanding."
Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos, who livest forever with thy Son, the life-bearing King,
pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new people of God,
and to save them from every hostile assault,
for we have acquired thine intercession, //
and to the ages, in manifest splendour, we call thee blessed.

THE ENTRANCE WITH THE GOSPEL

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

Reader: Save me, O God, for Thy Name's sake, and judge me in Thy strength.

Choir: Save me, O God, for Thy Name's sake, and judge me in Thy strength.

Reader: Hear my prayer, O God, and hearken unto the words of my mouth.

Choir: Save me, O God, for Thy Name's sake, and judge me in Thy strength.

Reader: Save me, O God, for Thy Name's sake,

Choir: and judge me in Thy strength.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Now Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [Genesis 28:10-17]

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [Ezekiel 43:27-44:4]

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [Proverbs 9:1-11]

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Little Litany and the Trisagion.

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Reader: For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, all generations will call me blessed.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord

Choir: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Philippians.

Ye Brethren: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [Philippians 2:5-11]

ALLELUIA

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest, and to all the people.

Reader: And to thy spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place: Thou and the Ark of Thy holiness!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" [Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]

ZADOSTOYNIK

[White Book page 134]

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder,

seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in thee,

O Pure Virgin:

for birthgiving remains virginal,

and life is united to death.

A virgin after childbearing and alive after death!//

Thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

COMMUNION HYMN

I will take the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

AFTER COMMUNION

"We have seen the True Light ..." etc., as usual.

AFTER THE PRAYER BEHIND THE AMBON

A table bearing a tray of fragrant herbs is placed in the middle of the Nave, before the Icon of the Feast. The Priest goes out of the Altar through the Royal Doors, and goes to the table, preceded by Servers carrying a candle, the censer and the Holy Water vat. The censer is handed to the Priest, who censures around the table three times, a Server standing opposite him holding a candle, while the Choir sings the Troparion of the Dormition [Sheet] Glory ... Both now ..., and the Kontakion of the Dormition [Sheet]. The Priest says the Prayer of Blessing of the herbs, and sprinkles them with Holy Water. After the Blessing, the Choir continues the Liturgy with "Blessed be the Name of the Lord ...". The Liturgy concludes as usual.