

December 22, 2022 Vespers for the pre-feast of the Nativity & St Anastasia

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship God our King.

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment, who have stretched out the heavens like a tent, who have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters, who make the clouds your chariot, who ride on the wings of the wind, who make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which you appointed for them. You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which you formed to sport in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (3)

THE LITANY OF PEACE

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. *(and after each petition)*

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our Archbishop and Father _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the civil authorities of this country and those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city, monastery, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Chanter: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

PSALM 140 *Chanter:*

Tone 1 Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord Keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, To busy myself with wicked deeds. In company with men who work iniquity; And let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, But let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, Then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, So shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the grave. But my eyes are toward you, O Lord God; In you I

seek refuge; leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, And from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, While I escape.

Psalm 141 I cry with my voice to the Lord, With my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, You know my way! In the path where I walk, They have hidden a trap for me. I look to my right and watch, But there is none who takes notice of me; No refuge remains to me, No man cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say: you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; For I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; For they are too strong for me!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

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

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

STICHERA

*V. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. **Tone 1** (for the Forefeast) (O all-praised martyrs)*

“Beholding the condescension of God,
all the earth is glad;
the Magi bring Me gifts;
the sky proclaims it from on high with a star;
the Angels render glory;
the shepherds watch and are amazed;
the manger holds Me like a fiery throne.//
Seeing these things, O Mother, rejoice!”

V. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

“O my Son without beginning,
ineffable Offspring of the all-unoriginate Father,
clothed in the likeness of my matter,
You have come, the Light of revelation to the nations.
For You came to enrich impoverished humanity
through the poverty in which You are clothed.//
I praise Your loving-kindness, O Lord.”

V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

“Rejoice, O Mother,
beholding Me as a Babe and resting in your arms;
for I have come to take away all the pain of Adam,
which he suffered because of the evil counsel of the serpent.
Tasting of the tree, he found himself removed from the sweetness of Paradise//
and subject to corruption.”

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. Tone 8 (for St. Anastasia) (What shall we call you)*

Disdaining the beautiful things of the world,
and not sparing your flesh for them, O honored one,
you committed yourself to minister to the saints in a godly manner,
patiently serving them amid their sufferings,
and encouraging them with wise words to be courageous.//
Pray that our souls may be saved!

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

You distributed your wealth to those in need, O honored one,
fervently seeking those things that are eternal,
and following the divine steps of Christ with undaunted faith;
and you cried out, saying:
“I have been wounded with desire for You, O Immortal One.
Show me to be a partaker of the divine glory of Your sufferings,//
as You are compassionate and love mankind!”

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Having endured a blessed suffering, O Anastasia,
you truly cleanse our sufferings with the outpouring of your healings.
Therefore, as is right, we call you blessed;
with love we celebrate your memory,
and bow down before your relics, from which we draw forth holiness.//
Pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 2 (for St. Anastasia)

Having suffered at your tribunal, O all-praised Anastasia,
you received the gift of resurrection.
You directed a multitude of demons to the sea of their destruction,//
O wondrous athlete and martyr.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4 (for the Forefeast)

Adorn yourself, O Bethlehem!
Sing praises, O city of Zion, and rejoice, O wilderness!
For the star shall come to Bethlehem, and announce the birth of Christ;
the cave shall receive Him Whom nothing can contain;
and the manger is ready to accept Life everlasting.
Let us sing to Him and cry aloud:
“Save our souls, O Jesus our God,//
Who has become incarnate for our sake!”

NO ENTRANCE

Chanter:

O GLAD-SOME LIGHT OF THE HO-LY GLO-RY OF THE IM-MOR-TAL
FA-THER, HEA-VEN-LY, HO-LY, BLESS-ED JE-SUS CHRIST.
NOW THAT WE HAVE COME TO THE SET-TING OF THE SUN AND BE-
HOLD THE LIGHT OF EVE-NING, WE PRAISE GOD, FA-THER,
SON, AND HO-LY SPI-RIT. FOR MEET IT IS AT ALL TIMES
TO WOR-SHIP **YOU**: WITH VOI-CES OF PRAISE, O SON OF GOD
AND GIV-ER OF LIFE: THERE-FORE, ALL THE WORLD
GLO-RI-FIES **YOU**!

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Deacon: The prokeimenon in the fifth tone: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Choir: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

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

Choir: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Deacon: O Lord, save me by Your name,

Choir: and in Your power be a judge for me.

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever.
Amen.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Master, let me understand your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not despise the works of your hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a song. To you is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF VESPERS

Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

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

Chanter: Lord, have mercy.

The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Chanter: Grant this, O Lord. *(and after each petition)*

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

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

The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Chanter: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a good God and love mankind and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Chanter: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

APOSTICHA

Tone 2 Christ is born on earth
to crush the power of evil,
to enlighten those in darkness,
and to free the captives.//
Let us go forth to meet Him.

V. God shall come from Teman and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain. (Habakkuk 3:3)

Dance, O Sion!
Adorn yourself, O cavern!
Prepare, O Bethlehem!
For the Virgin comes//
to give birth to Christ.

V. O Lord, I have heard what You have done, and am filled with awe. (Habakkuk 3:2)

The families of nations
offer glory and praise.
The Magi come with gifts;
the shepherds watch in the fields,//
joyfully preparing the way.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4***

As the namesake of the life-bearing Resurrection of Christ,
You fulfilled your calling with an honorable life and strong character.
You acquired courage through wisdom,
weaving for yourself a robe dyed purple in your blood;
bearing the Cross, you reigned with God the Savior.//
Entreat Him, O most blessed Anastasia, that He illumine us with His divine glory!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 4***

Rejoice, O Isaiah, and receive the Word of God:
prophesy to the Maiden Mary
that she is the bush that burned with fire
yet was not consumed by the nature of the Divinity.
Adorn yourself well, O Bethlehem!
Open wide your gates, O Eden!
You Magi, come and see Salvation wrapped and laid in a manger!//
The star of the life-giving Lord Who saves our race has shone upon the roof of the cave.

PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON

Reader: Now set free your servant, Master, according to your word in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, Whom you have prepared before the face of all peoples - Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

Chanter: Amen.

TROPARIA

Tone 4 Your lamb Anastasia calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice:

"I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You, I endure suffering.

In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You,

and I died so that I might live with You.

Accept me as a pure sacrifice,

for I have offered myself in love." //

Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful!

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

Tone 4 Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!

Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!

Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;

if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. //

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

THE AUGMENTED LITANY

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (3) *(and after each petition)*

Again we pray for pious and right-glorifying Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop and Father (name).

Again we pray for our brethren, priests, ieromonks, deacons, ierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, care, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God ____, and of all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-remembered founders of this holy house and for all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren who are in their rest before us especially remembering ____, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

Priest: For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen.

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Wisdom!

Chanter: Father, bless!

Priest: Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages!

Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God save us!

Chanter: More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Birthgiver of God we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to you, Christ God, our Hope, glory to you!

Chanter: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; through the supplications 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 holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of the holy greatmartyr Anastasia the "Deliverer from potions", whose remembrance we also fulfill, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: Amen.