

**Vespers with Divine Liturgy for
the Holy, Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul**

Deacon: Master, bless!

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: 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! (*thrice*)

The Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: 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 other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Amen.

Psalm 140 (In the appointed tone)

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!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 2 With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul?

Separated in body, they were united by the Spirit;

they rank first among preachers:

one was the leader of the Apostles,

while the other labored more than the rest. / Truly, Christ our God, Who has great mercy,// has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory.

V. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*
With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul?
Separated in body, they were united by the Spirit;
they rank first among preachers:
one was the leader of the Apostles,
while the other labored more than the rest.
Truly, Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory.

V. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*
With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul?
Separated in body, they were united by the Spirit;
they rank first among preachers:
one was the leader of the Apostles,
while the other labored more than the rest.
Truly, Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory.

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.*
How shall we worthily sing hymns to honor Peter and Paul?
Their hands were filled with grace and truth;
their feet carried them to the ends of the earth, preaching the Gospel of peace.
Once driven by the wind of the Spirit,
they are now carried up to heaven.
Truly they are rivers of wisdom and the arms of the Cross.
Through them Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has cast down the arrogance of demons.

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*
How shall we worthily sing hymns to honor Peter and Paul?
Their hands were filled with grace and truth;
their feet carried them to the ends of the earth, preaching the Gospel of peace.

Once driven by the wind of the Spirit,
they are now carried up to heaven.
Truly they are rivers of wisdom and the arms of the Cross.
Through them Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has cast down the arrogance of demons.

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

How shall we worthily sing hymns to honor Peter and Paul?
Their hands were filled with grace and truth;
their feet carried them to the ends of the earth, preaching the Gospel of peace.
Once driven by the wind of the Spirit,
they are now carried up to heaven.
Truly they are rivers of wisdom and the arms of the Cross.
Through them Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has cast down the arrogance of demons.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*
With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul?
They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless.
They are awesome swords of the Spirit.
They are the adornment of Rome;
they have nourished the whole world with the Word of God.
They are the living tablets of the New Testament written by the hand of God.//
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has exalted them in Sion.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*
With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul?
They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless.
They are awesome swords of the Spirit.
They are the adornment of Rome;
they have nourished the whole world with the Word of God.
They are the living tablets of the New Testament written by the hand of God.//
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has exalted them in Sion.

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

Tone 4 Three times Christ asked Peter: “Do you love Me?”

In this way Christ set aright the threefold denial.

Therefore Simon cried out to the One Who sees all hidden things:

“Lord, You know all things, You understand all things.

You know that I love You!”

Then the Savior said to him:

“Feed My sheep, feed My chosen ones,

feed My lambs, whom I have acquired for salvation by My own blood!” //

O blessed Apostle, pray that He may grant us great mercy!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord

through you, O Virgin.

He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonder in you:

“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”

Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,

since God was freely born of her without a father.

He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,

so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder

and brought it to His Father,

joining it to the heavenly pow’rs.//

Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world, O Theotokos.

The Entrance

[And they go out at once through the northern door, the Deacon going first. And, standing directly in front of the holy doors, the Deacon says: Let us pray to the Lord.

The Priest, bowing his head, says quietly the prayer of the entrance:

Master, Lord our God, who have set upright in the heavens orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the liturgy of your Glory, cause that with our entrance there be an entrance of holy angels, co-liturgizing and glorifying your Goodness with us, 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. Amin.

The Deacon: Bless, Master, the holy entrance.

The Priest blesses toward the east, saying:

Blessed is the entrance of your holy place, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages. The Deacon: Amin.]

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed - Jesus Christ. Having come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God! At all times you are worthy, you are worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies you!

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Priest : Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Then, the appropriate Prokeimenon for the day of the week:

MONDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Choir: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Deacon: Whenever I called, the God of my justice heard me.

Choir: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Deacon: The Lord hears me

Choir: when I cry out to Him.

TUESDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

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

Deacon: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. In green pastures He gives me repose.

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

Deacon: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me

Choir: all the days of my life.

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.

THURSDAY EVENING

- Deacon:* The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.
- Choir:* My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.
- Deacon:* I lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from where my help shall come.
- Choir:* My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.
- Deacon:* My help is from the Lord,
- Choir:* Who made heaven and earth.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from first catholic epistle of Peter. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Beloved, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from first catholic epistle of Peter. (1 Peter 1:13-19)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Beloved, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from first catholic epistle of Peter. (1 Peter 2:11-24)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered,

He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.

TROPARION

Tone 4 O first-enthroned of the Apostles, and teachers of the universe: entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, // and to our souls great mercy!

KONTAKION

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

Tone 2 O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest and to the enjoyment of Your blessings the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles, for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, // for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: 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.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are holy, our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever

Deacon: and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Divine Liturgy continues from this point in the pew book pg 55.

Choir: (The choir sings the “Holy God...” at the Divine Liturgy)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. *(Psalm 18:4)*

Choir: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Reader: The heavens describe the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims the making of his hands. *(Psalm 18:1)*

Choir: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Reader: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,

Choir: and their words to the ends of the universe.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the second epistle of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (11:21-12:9)

Reader: Brethren: to our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold – I speak foolishly – I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? – I speak as a fool – I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket

through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Priest: Peace to you, reader!

Reader: And to your spirit! Alleluia in the first tone.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: The heavens will confess your wonders, O Lord, and your truth in the church of the holy ones. *(Psalm 88:4)*

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: God – glorified in the counsel of the holy ones. *(Psalm 88:6)*

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:13-19

At that time Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also

say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

KOINONIKON Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. *(Psalm 18:4)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!