

VESPERS for the DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

Choir: 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. (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.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (x12)

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! (x3)

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

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!

STICHERA

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!

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

v. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Tone 4 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.”

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

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.”

v. (4) 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.

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

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.

v. (2) 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.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

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.

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

Tone 6 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!

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:

In the evening, in the morning, and at noon, we praise, bless, give thanks, and pray to you, Master of all, Lord who love mankind. Make our prayer arise straight like incense before you, and let not our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls, for toward you, Lord, Lord, are our eyes and in you we have hoped, our God, do not put us to shame, 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 of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Then, the Great Prokeimenon :

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon in the *Seventh Tone*: Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who work wonders! (*Ps 76/77:13b-14a*)

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who work wonders!

Deacon: You have made known Your power among the peoples! (*Ps 76/77:14*)

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who work wonders!

Deacon: And I said, "Now have I begun; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High." (*Ps 76/77:10*)

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who work wonders!

Deacon: I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Your wonders! (*Ps 76/77:11*)

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who work wonders!

Deacon: Who is so great a God as our God?

Choir: You are the God Who work wonders!

The first Kneeling Prayers

Deacon: Again and again, bending the knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Immaculate, undefiled, without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, unsearchable, unchangeable, unsurpassable, immeasurable, long-suffering Lord, who alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light; who made the heaven, the earth and the sea and all that was created in them; who grant to all their requests before they ask; we pray and beseech you, Master who love mankind, the Father of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who for our sake and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and Mary, the Ever-Virgin and glorious Mother of God.

Teaching us first by words and later also showing us by deeds, when he underwent the saving Passion, he granted us, your humble, sinful and unworthy servants, an example to offer supplications by the bending of neck and knees for our sins and those committed in ignorance by the people. Do you, then, who are full of mercy and love for mankind, hear us on whatever day we call upon you; but especially on this day of Pentecost, on which after our Lord Jesus Christ had been taken up and been enthroned at your right hand, God and Father, he sent down on his disciples and Apostles the holy Spirit, who settled on each one of them and they were all filled with his inexhaustible grace and spoke in strange tongues of your mighty works and prophesied.

Now therefore hear us as we pray, remember us, humble and condemned, and turn back the captivity of our souls. Receive us as we fall before you and cry out, 'We have sinned'. On you we have been cast from the womb. From our mother's womb you are our God. But because our days have wasted away in vanity, we have been stripped of your help, we have been deprived of all defence. But confident of your compassion we cry, 'Do not remember the sins of our youth and cleanse us of our secret faults. Do not cast us aside in the time of old age. When our strength fails, do not abandon us. Before we return to the earth, count us worthy to turn back to you and give heed to us with kindness and grace. Measure our iniquities by your acts of compassion. Set against the multitude of our offences the depth of your compassion. Look from your holy height, Lord, upon your people here present and who await from you rich mercy. Visit us in your goodness; deliver us from the oppression of the devil; make our lives safe with your holy and sacred laws. Entrust your people to a faithful Angel guardian; gather us all into your kingdom; give pardon to all who hope in you; forgive their sins and ours; purify us by the operation of your holy Spirit; destroy all the wiles of the foe against us'.

He adds this prayer:

Blessed are you Lord, Master almighty, who made the day light with the light of the sun and the night radiant with the rays of fire; who have granted us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near the beginnings of the night. Hear our supplication and that of all your people. And pardoning all of us our offences, voluntary and involuntary, accept our evening entreaties and send down the multitude of your rich mercy and acts of compassion on your inheritance. Wall us about with your holy Angels; arm us with the arms of justice; fence us with the rampart of your truth; guard us by your power; deliver us from every misfortune and from every trick of the adversary. Grant us also that both the present day with the coming night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without stumbling, without dreams, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints who have been well-pleasing to you since time began.

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 our God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O Lord our God, and to you we send up glory dominion, and 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.

Choir: Amen.

The Augmented Litany

Deacon: Let us all say from our whole soul and from our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord ruler-of-all, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3) *(and after each petition)*

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

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable 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 also for our brothers who are in ministries and all those who serve and have served in this holy house.

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.

Choir: Amen.

The second Kneeling Prayers

Deacon: Again and again, bending the knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who, while still present with us in this life, gave your peace to humankind, and ever grant the gift of the all-holy Spirit to the faithful as an inheritance which cannot be taken away, you sent down this grace today in a more manifest form to your Disciples and Apostles and gave eloquence to their lips with tongues of fire, through which we, every race of humankind, having received the knowledge of God in our own language by the hearing of the ear, have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit, delivered from the darkness of error and, by the distribution and supernatural force of the perceptible tongues of fire, have been taught faith in you and have been illumined to speak of you as God with the Father and the holy Spirit in one Godhead, power and authority.

Do you, then, the radiance of the Father, the unchangeable and unalterable stamp of his Essence and nature, the source of salvation and grace, open also the lips of me, a sinner, and teach me how I should and for whom I ought to pray, for you know the multitude of my sins, but your compassion will overcome their measureless number. For see, with fear I stand before you, having cast away despair of my soul into the sea of your mercy. Govern my life, by the ineffable power of your wisdom, you who govern all creation by a word, who are the fair haven of the storm-tossed, and make known to me the way in which I shall walk.

Grant to my thoughts the Spirit of your wisdom, to my folly the Spirit of understanding, with the Spirit of your fear overshadow my deeds. Renew a right Spirit within my inward parts and make firm the instability of my mind with the sovereign Spirit, so that guided each day by your good Spirit to what is profitable, I may be found worthy to do your commandments and always keep in mind your Coming, which searches out all that we have done. Do not neglect me, so that I become deceived by the corrupted pleasures of the world, but give me strength to yearn for the enjoyment of the treasures which are to come. For you said, Master, that whatever someone asks in your name they receive without restraint from your co-eternal God and Father. And so I a sinner at the coming of your holy Spirit implore your goodness, 'The things that I have prayed for grant me for my salvation'. Yes, Lord, the loving and most generous giver of every benefaction, for it is you who give superabundantly more than we ask. It is you who are compassionate, merciful, who without sin became a partaker in our flesh and who in loving compassion bend down to those who bend the knee to you and became the atonement for our sins. Give your people, Lord, your acts of pity; hear us from your holy heaven; sanctify us by the power of your saving right hand; shelter us in the shelter of your wings; do not despise the works of your hands. Against you alone we have sinned, but it is you alone that we adore. We do not know how to worship a strange god, nor to spread out our hands, Master, to another god. Forgive us our offences and, accepting our supplications on our bended knees, stretch out to us all a helping hand. Accept the prayer of all as acceptable incense, rising up before your kingdom, above all goodness.

And he adds the following prayer:

Lord, Lord, who have delivered us from every arrow that flies by day, deliver us also from every deed that walks in darkness. Accept as an evening sacrifice the lifting up of our hands. Count us worthy also to pass through the stadium of the night untried by evils, and rescue us from every disturbance and fear which comes to us from the Devil. Grant our souls the grace of compunction and our thoughts concern for the examination at your dread and just judgement. Nail down our flesh with fear of you, and deaden our members that are on earth, so that, in the calm of sleep, we may be made radiant with joy by the contemplation of your judgements. Remove from us every unseemly imagining and harmful desire. Raise us up at the time for prayer strengthened in the faith and advancing in your commandments.

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 our God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: By the good pleasure and grace of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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 third Kneeling Prayers

Deacon: Again and again, bending the knees, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Christ our God, ever-flowing Spring, source of life and illumination, co-eternal creative power of the Father, for the salvation of mortals, who fulfilled the whole dispensation with surpassing goodness; tore apart the indissoluble bonds of Death and the bars of Hell, trampling down multitudes of evil spirits; offered yourself as an unblemished oblation for our sake, giving your most pure body, intangible and inaccessible to every sin, as a sacrifice, and through this dread and inexpressible offering you granting us the grace of everlasting life. You descended into Hell, smashed the everlasting bars and showed the way up to those who sat below. With a bait of divine wisdom you hooked the author of evil, the dragon of the deep, bound him with cords of darkness in Tartarus and secured him with the unquenchable fire and the exterior darkness through your infinitely powerful strength. Glorious wisdom of the Father, who appeared to those in distress as a mighty helper and enlightened those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death, Lord of unending glory, beloved Son of the most high Father, eternal light from eternal light, Sun of justice, hear us who entreat you and give rest to the souls of your servants who have fallen asleep before us, our fathers, mothers and brethren and the rest of our relatives according to the flesh and all our kinsfolk of the household of the faith, whose memory we too now keep, because in you is the might of all things and in your hand you hold all the ends of the earth.

Master almighty, God of our fathers and Lord of mercy, Creator of the mortal and immortal race and of every human nature that is brought together and again dissolved, of life and death, of our sojourn here and our translation there, you apportion times to the living and establish the moments of death. You lead down to Hell and you lead up. You bind with weakness and release with power. You dispose all things for our use and direct what is to come for our advantage.

You give life by hope of resurrection to those wounded by the sting of Death. Master of all things, our God and Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far off upon the sea, who on this final, great and saving day of Pentecost revealed to us the mystery of the holy, consubstantial, co-eternal, undivided and uncompounded Trinity and the coming and presence of your holy and life-giving Spirit poured out in the form of tongues of fire on your holy Apostles, setting them as Evangelists of our true faith, revealing them as confessors and heralds of true theology; who have also been pleased on this most perfect and saving Feast to receive suppliant prayers of atonement for those who are immured in Hell, granting us great hopes that repose and comfort will be sent down from you to the departed from the pains which hold them, hear us, lowly and wretched, who entreat you, and give rest to the souls of your servants who have fallen asleep before us in a place of light, a place of green pasture, a place of refreshment, from which all grief, sorrow and sighing have fled away, and establish their spirits in the tents of the Just and count them worthy of peace and repose. Because the dead will not praise you, O Lord, nor do those in Hell have the freedom to offer you thanksgiving, but we the living bless you and implore you and bring before you atoning prayers and sacrifices on behalf of their souls.

And he adds this Prayer:

God, great and eternal, holy and lover of humankind, who have counted us worthy to stand at this hour before your unapproachable glory to hymn and praise your wonders, be gracious to us, your unworthy servants. Grant us grace to offer you without conceit and with a broken heart the thrice-holy hymn of glory and thanksgiving for your great gifts, which you have made us and always do so.

Remember, Lord, our weakness and do not destroy us with our iniquities, but in our humiliation show us your great mercy, so that fleeing the darkness of sin we may walk in the daylight of justice; and having put on the weapons of light we may persevere unassailed by any assault of the evil one, and that with boldness we may glorify you for all things, the only true God and lover of humankind. For indeed, Master and Maker of all things, truly great is your mystery: the temporary dissolution of your creatures and after this their restoration and repose to the ages. We give thanks to you for all things, for our entrances into this world and for our departures, which through your unfailing promise betoken for us beforehand our hopes of resurrection and unending life. Would that we may enjoy it at your future second Coming, for you are the author of our resurrection and the impartial judge who loves humankind of what we have done in life, the Master and Lord of our reward.

Through your supreme condescension you became a partaker with us in the same flesh and blood and in those passions of ours that are blameless by willingly submitting to temptation, and, possessing compassionate pity, having yourself suffered by being tempted, and, as you promised, have yourself become a helper for us who are tempted, and so you have also led us to dispassion. Accept therefore, Master, our supplications and entreaties, and give rest to all the fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and children of each, and to every other kinsman and relative, and to all the souls who have gone to their rest before us in the hope of resurrection to eternal life, and establish their spirits and their names in the book of life and in the bosoms of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and in the land of the living, for the kingdom of heaven, in the Paradise of pleasure, through your shining Angels introducing them into your holy mansions. With them raise our bodies also on the day which you have appointed in accordance with your holy and unfailing promises. There is therefore no death for your servants, Lord, when we go out from the body and come to you, O God, but a translation from sorrowful things to better and more desirable, and rest and joy. But if we have in anything sinned against you, be gracious to us and them, because no one is clean of defilement before you, though they last but a day, except you alone, who appeared sinless upon earth, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we all hope to obtain mercy and

forgiveness of sins. Therefore, as you are good and love humankind, remit, forgive, pardon us our faults, voluntary and involuntary, in knowledge and in ignorance, manifest and unnoticed, in deed, in thought, in word, of all our actions and movements. Give freedom and respite to those who have gone before us and bless all of us here present, granting a good and peaceful end to us and to all your people, and opening to us the compassion of your mercy and love for humankind at your dread and fearful Second Coming, and make us all worthy of your kingdom.

He also adds this.

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light, who made all creation with wisdom, who made a separation between the light and the darkness and placed the sun to rule the day and the moon and the stars to rule the night, who have counted us sinners worthy on this present day to come before your face with thanksgiving and to offer you our evening worship. Direct our prayer, Lord, like incense before you and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant us also that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful; clothe us with the weapons of light; deliver us from every terror of the night and from every deed that operates in darkness, and give us sleep, which you have given for the repose of our weakness, free from every diabolical vision. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we, being moved to compunction on our beds, call to mind your all-holy Name in the night, and made radiant by the meditation of your commandments may we rise up with joy of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, offering supplications and entreaties to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit them in your mercy at the prayers of the holy Mother of God.

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 our God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are the repose of our souls and bodies, 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.

Choir: Amen.

The Litany of Vespers

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Choir: 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.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 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! (Ps. 50:12/51:10)

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 Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me! (Ps. 50: 13/51:12)

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 created all things through Your 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 proceed from the Father and rest in the Son.//
O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

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.

Choir: Amen.

TROPARION

Tone 8 Blessed are You, O Christ our God,
You have revealed the fishermen as most wise
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit,
and through them You drew the world into Your net.//
O Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

(x3)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

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

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

Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God save us!

Choir: 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!

Choir: 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: He who emptied himself out of the paternal and divine bosom, and came down from heaven upon earth, and took up our whole nature and deified it, and after these ascended back into heaven, and sat at the right hand of God and Father, and sent down upon his holy disciples and Apostles the divine and holy and consubstantial and co-eternal Spirit, of one power and of one glory, and through it illumined them and through them the whole world, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother, of the holy, glorious, all-laudable, God-proclaiming, and Spirit-bearing Apostles, 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.

Vespers text from *Ieratikon: Volume I* with the blessing of Archbishop Alexander
Kneeling Prayers translated by Archimandrite Ephrem Lash
Stichera, Aposticha and Troparion from www.oca.org