

Vespers
Polyeleos Service

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

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. **(Thrice)**

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory: of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord have mercy. **(12 times)**

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

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

Psalm 103

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 for ever 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 labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled.

Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. 3x

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For our Great Lord and Father, His Holiness N.; for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan N., First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our

lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop or Bishop N.); for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For this land, its authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For the God-preserved Russian Land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For this city (or this town, or this holy monastery), for every city and country, and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

Blessed is the Man

Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are all that have put their trust in Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. **Thrice**

Small Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the dominion, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Lord I Have Cried...

Reader: In the ____ **Tone (tone of the first of the stichera):** Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me.

Choir: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me. * Harken unto me, O Lord. * Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; * attend to the voice of my supplication, * when I cry unto Thee. * Harken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth * as incense before Thee, * the lifting up of my hands * as an evening sacrifice. * Harken unto me, O Lord.

Outside a forefeast or afterfeast: all from the Menaion

IF A FOREFEAST OR AFTERFEAST:

- *3 stichera from the forefeast or afterfeast (usually found in the Menaion)*
- *5 stichera + Doxasticon (if there is one) + Theotokion from the Menaion*

All Fridays, including forefeast or afterfeast:

- *Both now: Dogmatic Theotokion in the tone of the previous Sunday*

If there are 8 stichera (occasionally there are only 6 – in that case start below):

(8) Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

(7) Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

(6) If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? *
For with Thee there is forgiveness.

(5) For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul
hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

(4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel
hope in the Lord.

(3) For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;
* and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

(2) O praise the Lord, all ye nations; * praise Him, all ye peoples.

(1) For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, * and the truth of the
Lord abideth forever.

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

Sticheron (Doxasticon) from the Menaion, if there is one.

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

And we then sing or read the Theotokion as appointed (see above)

Priest: Wisdom! Aright!

Sing or Read: O Gentle Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy,
blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having
beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God.
Meet it is for Thee at all times to be hymned with reverent voices, O Son of God,
Giver of life. Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

Priest: Let us attend. Peace be unto all. Wisdom! The Prokimenon in the
__Tone.

THE DAILY PROKIMENA

On Saturday evening, the Sixth Tone:

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

Stichos 1: The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Stichos 2: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Stichos 3: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

On Sunday evening, the Eighth Tone:

Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

Stichos: Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

On Monday evening, the Fourth Tone:

The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

Stichos: When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me.

On Tuesday evening, the First Tone:

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall pursue me all the days of my life.

Stichos: The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell.

On Wednesday evening, the Fifth Tone:

O God, in Thy name save me, and in Thy strength do Thou judge me.

Stichos: O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth.

On Thursday evening, the Sixth Tone:

My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Stichos: I have lifted up mine eyes to the Mountains, from whence cometh my help.

On Friday evening, the Seventh Tone:

O God, my helper art Thou, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Stichos: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

Scriptural readings script:

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from _____.

Deacon: Let us attend.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray For our Great Lord and Father, His Holiness N.; for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan N., First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop or Bishop N., whose diocese it is) and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray for the God-preserved Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora and for their salvation.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable, holy Orthodox patriarchs; for pious kings and right-believing queens; and for the founders of this holy temple (if it be a monastery: this holy monastery): and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, the brethren of this holy temple [*if in a monastery: this holy monastery*].

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

--Again we pray for them that bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that minister and them that chant, and for all the people here present, that await of Thee great and abundant mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Priest: For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

--That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

--That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

--A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

--Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For a good God art Thou, and the Lover of Mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord. (*Very Slowly.*)

Priest: Blessed and most glorified be the dominion of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

The appointed Aposticha is read or chanted:

Outside forefeast or afterfeast: all from the Menaion

IF THERE IS A FOREFEAST OR AFTERFEAST

- *All verses from the Menaion*
- *Glory: Doxasticon from the Menaion*
- *Both now: forefeast or afterfeast (usually found in the Menaion)*

Reader: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (***Thrice***)

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Troparia as appointed:

Outside forefeast or afterfeast: all from the Menaion

IF THERE IS A FOREFEAST OR AFTERFEAST

- *Troparion from the Menaion*
- *Glory, Both now: Troparion of forefeast or afterfeast*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father bless!

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

Choir: Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord have mercy. *Thrice*

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; and Saint(s) N.(N.) (to whom the church is dedicated); and Saint(s) N.(N) (of the day); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

Choir: Amen.

The Many years

Our great lord and father, His Holiness Kyrill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, / our lord the Very Most Reverend Hilarion, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, / our lord the Most Reverend Peter, Archbishop of Chicago and Mid-America, / and their God-protected flock, / this land its civil authorities and armed forces, / the God-preserved Russian Land, / the Rector of this Holy Parish and all Orthodox Christians: // preserve O Lord for many years!