

Great and Holy Saturday – Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Deacon: Bless, Master.

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

People: Amen.

Reader: Glory to You, our God, Glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere and fill all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us!
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Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins, O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

All: 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 times*). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: 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 104

Reader:

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, You have been greatly magnified; You have put on confession and splendour, throwing light around You like a garment, and stretching out the heavens like a skin.

He covers His upper chambers with water; He makes the clouds His steps of ascent; He walks around on the wings of the winds. He makes His angels His spirits; and His ministers a flame of fire.

He lays the foundations of the earth for its stability, so that it shall not be bent unto ages of ages. The abyss is His mantle like a garment, the waters shall stand up on the mountains. From Your rebuke they shall flee away; from the voice of Your thunder they shall be afraid.

The mountains climb up, and the plains go down into the places where You founded them. You have placed a bound which they shall not pass, nor shall they turn around and cover the earth.

He sends out the springs in the ravines; the waters shall pass between the mountains. They shall give drink to the wild beasts of the field, and the wild asses shall quench their thirst; the birds of the heavens shall make their home on them, and from the midst of the rocks shall they sound forth their voice, watering the mountains from His upper chambers. From the fruit of Your works shall the earth be sated.

He makes the grass spring up for the cattle, and green plants for the service of men, so that he may bring forth bread from the earth, and wine makes glad the heart of man; so that he may gladden his face with oil, and bread makes firm the heart of man.

The trees of the plain shall be sated, the cedars of Lebanon which You planted. There the sparrows shall make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The highest mountains are for the hart; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.

He made the moon for seasons; the sun has known its setting. You appointed the darkness, and it became night, and through it shall move all the wild forest beasts: the cubs of the lion roaring to snatch their prey, seeking their food from God.

The sun has risen, and they have been gathered, and they shall lie down in their dens. Man shall go forth to his work, and to his labour until the evening.

How magnified have been Your works, O LORD: in wisdom You have made them all. The earth has been filled with Your creation. Here is the sea, great and broad; in it are reptiles beyond number, living things both small and great.

There the ships move about; and that leviathan which You formed to sport in it. All expect You to give them food in due season. When You give it to them, they gather it; when You open Your hand, all things are filled with loving-kindness.

But when You turn away Your face, they shall be stirred up. You have taken away their spirit, they shall fade away and return to their dirt. You shall send forth Your spirit, and they shall be established; and You will renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the LORD be forever; the LORD will be glad in His works - He Who looks upon the earth, and makes it tremble; He Who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I shall sing to the LORD in my life; I shall chant to my God while I have being. May my conversation be made sweet to Him; as for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.

May sinners fade away from the earth, and the iniquitous, so that they cease to be. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

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!
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God!
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God!

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan ____, for His Eminence, our Archbishop ____, for His Grace, our Bishop ____, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the government of our country, for all civil authorities and for those who serve in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For travellers by land, by sea and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ... For to You are due all glory, honour and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

1st Kathisma (Blessed is the Man) is not sung.

Lord, I Call

Reader: In the 1st tone, "Lord, I call upon You, hear me!"

Reader: *(Ps. 140)*

Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round my lips. Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with their excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen. The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head. For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; their judges have been swallowed up near by the rock. They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto Hades. For unto You, O Lord, O Lord, are my eyes, in You have I hoped; take not my soul away. Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity. The sinners shall fall into their own net; while I alone escape.

(Ps. 141) With my voice I have cried unto the Lord, with my voice I have made my supplication unto the Lord. I will pour out before Him my supplication, my affliction before Him will I declare. When my spirit was fainting within me, then You knew my paths. In this way wherein I have walked they laid a snare for me. I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that knew me. Flight has failed me, and there is none that watches out for my soul. I have cried unto You, O Lord; I said: You are my hope, my portion in the land of the living. Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low. Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name.

The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You shall reward me.

Out of the depths I have cried unto You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

People: *Tone 1*

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord.

Grant us remission of sins, ///

For You alone have manifested the resurrection to the world.

Reader: If You should mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?

For with You there is forgiveness, that You may be revered.

People: Encircle Zion,
And surround her, O people.
Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead, ///
For He is our God, Who has delivered the world from our
transgressions.

Reader: For Your name's sake I have patiently waited for You, O Lord.

People: Come, O people,
Let us hymn and fall down before Christ,
Glorifying His resurrection from the dead, ///
For He is our God, Who has delivered the world from the enemy's
deceit.

Reader: My soul has waited patiently for Your word, my soul has hoped in
the Lord. From the morning watch until night, from the morning
watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

People: We have been freed from suffering
By Your suffering, O Christ,
We have been delivered from corruption
By Your resurrection, ///
O Lord, glory to You!

Reader: In the 8th tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is
plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his
iniquities.

People: *Tone 8*
Today Hades cries out groaning:
"I should not have accepted the man born of Mary.
He came and destroyed my power.
He shattered the gates of brass.
As God, He raised the souls that I held captive." ///
Glory to Your cross and resurrection, O Lord.

Reader: Praise the Lord, all you nations; praise Him, all you peoples.

People: Today Hades cries out groaning:

“My dominion has been shattered.
I received a dead man as one of the dead,
But against Him I could not prevail.
From eternity I had ruled the dead,
But behold, He raises all.
Because of Him do I perish.” ///
Glory to Your cross and resurrection, O Lord.

Reader: For He has made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abides forever.

People: Today Hades cries out groaning:

My power has been trampled upon.
The Shepherd is crucified and Adam is raised.
I have been deprived of those whom I ruled.
Those whom I swallowed in my strength I have given up.
He Who was crucified has emptied the tombs.
The power of death has been vanquished. ///
Glory to Your cross and resurrection, O Lord.

Reader: In the 6th tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...

People: *Tone 6*

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, when he said:
“God blessed the seventh day.”
This is the blessed Sabbath.
This is the day of rest,
On which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works.
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh,
Through the dispensation of death.
But on this day, He returned again
Through the resurrection.
He has granted us eternal life, ///
For He alone is good, and the lover of man.

Reader: In the 1st tone: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

People: *Tone 1*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed as the heaven, as the Temple of the Godhead!
She destroyed the wall of enmity!
She commenced the peace, she opened the Kingdom!
Since she is our foundation of faith,
Our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!
Courage! Courage! O people of God!
For Christ will destroy our enemies ///
Since He is all powerful.

The Entrance with the Gospel

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday...
...For unto You are due all glory, honour and worship: Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of Your saints, always, now and ever and
unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen. Wisdom. Stand aright.

People: *Gladsome Light*