

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

Deacon: Bless, Master.

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

-OR-

Deacon/Reader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: 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

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!

"Lord, I Call"

*The "Lord, I Call" verse is sung in the Tone of the Week followed by:
...three stikhera in the tone of the week from the Octoechos;
...four stikhera from the Menaion for the saint(s) of the day;
...then the following three stikhera from the Triodion:*

Tone 2

Let us humble the flesh by abstinence,
As we follow the divine path of pure fasting.
With prayers and tears let us seek the Lord Who saves us.
Let us put an end to anger, crying out:
Save us who have sinned against You!
Save us, O Christ our King,
As You have saved the men of Nineveh, ///
And make us partakers of Your heavenly kingdom, O Compassionate One!

When I think of my deeds, O Lord,
I am filled with despair
And know that I am worthy of every torment.
I have despised Your commandments, O Saviour.
I have spent my life as a prodigal.
I pray to You, O only merciful One:
Cleanse me by repentance,
Enlighten me through prayers and fasting, ///
And despise me not, O most gracious benefactor of all!

Let us begin the fast with joy!
Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts!
Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh!
Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food!
Let us rejoice in virtues of the spirit and fulfill them in love!
That we all may see the passion of Christ our God, ///
And rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!

...GNE in the tone of the week from the Octoechos.

The entrance is made with the censer.

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

People: "O Gladsome light!" is sung

The Great Prokeimenon

Priest: (*or deacon in the absence of a priest; or reader in the absence of a deacon*):
In the 8th tone, the prokeimenon: Turn not away Your face from Your child for I am afflicted; hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul and deliver it.

Serbian Tone 8

Turn not away Your face from Your child for I am af - lic - ted;
hear me speed - i - ly, draw near unto my soul and de - li - ver it.

Priest (*or deacon in the absence of a priest; or reader in the absence of a deacon*):
vs. Your salvation, O God, has upheld me.

People: *sing the prokeimenon*

vs. Let the poor see and be glad.

People: *sing the prokeimenon*

vs. Seek God, and your soul shall live.

People: *sing the prokeimenon*

Turn not away Your face from Your child for I am afflicted...

People: ...hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul and deliver it.

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers and praised and glorified is Your name forever! Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes! Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments! Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts! Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever: O despise not the works of Your hands. To You belong worship, to You belong praise, to You belong glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(At this point the Great Fast begins. The vestments of the clergy and servers and the altar cloths are changed from light to dark. The Royal Doors are closed. Lenten melodies are now sung.)

The Evening Litany

When no priest or deacon is present, instead of the Evening Litany, the following is said by the reader:

Reader: Lord, have mercy (x12). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

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

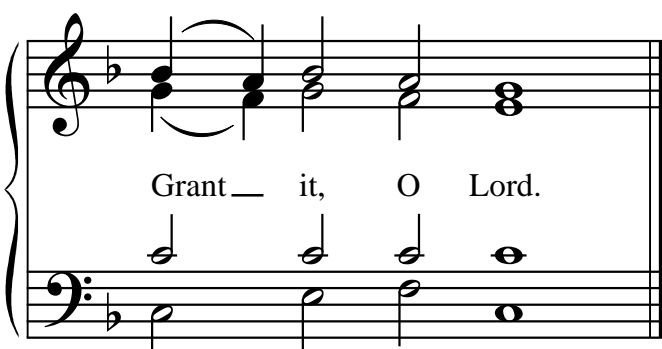
People:

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: 

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: 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 one another and our whole life unto Christ our God.

People:

To You, _____ O Lord.

Priest (*or deacon in the absence of a priest*):
 For You are a good God, and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory:
 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto
 ages of ages.

People:

A - men.

Deacon: Peace be to all.

People:

And to Your spi - rit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

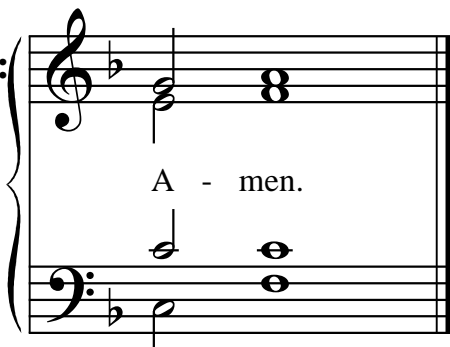
People:

To You, _____ O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for unto You, the awesome Judge, Who loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men, but asking Your mercy, and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the Devil, from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Priest (*or deacon in the absence of a priest*): For blessed and glorified be the majesty of Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People:



A - men.

The Apostikha

Tone 4

Your grace has shown forth, O Lord,
The grace which illumines our soul.
This is the acceptable time!
This is the time of repentance!
Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,
That passing through the fast as through a great sea
We may reach the resurrection on the third day ///
Of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

Reader: Unto You have I lifted up my eyes, unto You Who dwell in heaven.
Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters,
as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do
our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.

Your grace has shown forth, O Lord,
The grace which illumines our soul.
This is the acceptable time!
This is the time of repentance!
Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,
That passing through the fast as through a great sea
We may reach the resurrection on the third day ///
Of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

Reader: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we are greatly
filled with abasement. Our soul has been greatly filled therewith; let
reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.

You are glorified
In the memory of Your saints, O Christ God. ///
At their supplications, send down upon us Your great mercy!

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

The angelic hosts glorify you, O mother of God,
For you gave birth to God,
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
Who created out of nothing the angelic hosts.
Beseech Him to deliver from corruption and to enlighten ///
The souls of those who rightly praise you, O all-pure one!

Prayer of St. Symeon (*Tone 6*)

Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word
For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared before the face of all people,
A light to enlighten the Gentiles ///
And to be the glory of Your people Israel.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

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.

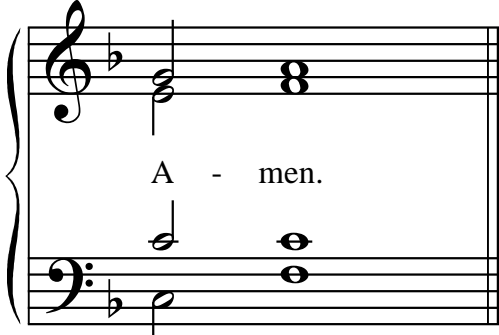
Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

-OR-

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

-OR-

Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

People: 

The Lenten Troparia

Re-joyce, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace the Lord is with you:

Bless - ed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb

for you have borne the Sa - viour of our souls. *Prostration*

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:

O Bap - tizer of Christ remember us all,

that we may be de - li - vered from our i - ni - qui - ties

for to you is given grace to in - ter - cede for us. *Prostration*

Now and e - ver and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

In - ter - cede for us, O Holy Apostles and all the saints

that we may be de - li - vered from perils and sor - rows

for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Sa - viour.

Prostration Be-neath your compassion we take refuge, O The - o - to - kos,

do not des - pise our supplications in ad - ver - si - ty,

but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only bless - ed one. *Prostration*

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*x40*)

More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify you. In the name of the Lord: Master, bless.

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

-OR-

Deacon/Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen. O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for You are good, and the Lover of mankind.

Prayer of St Ephrem

All: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant. (*prostration*)

Yes, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. (*prostration*)

12 metaneias saying: "O God, cleanse me a sinner."

Then the entire prayer is said, and a single prostration is made at the end.

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You!

People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit,

now and ever and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - - - cy.

Mas - - - - ter, bless.

Priest: (*gives the proper dismissal*)

-OR-

Deacon/Reader: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of __ (saints of the day), and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

People:

A - - - men.