

## Vespers of Great and Holy Friday

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

**People:** Amen.

**Reader:** Glory to You, O 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!  
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, wash away 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 unto 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.

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.

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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 are no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless the Lord.

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

### **The Great Litany**

Priest: 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 the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan\_\_\_\_\_, and for His Grace our Bishop\_\_\_\_\_, for the honourable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy, monastics, 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 an 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 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 unto 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.

**Reader:** In the First tone: Lord I call upon You, hear me.

**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, wash away 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 unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

*After the Lord's Prayer we sing the Troparion "Noble Joseph" as the Shroud  
is brought out in solemn procession to the center of the Temple.*

***(All kneel during the procession with the Holy Shroud.)***

## The Dismissal

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Master, bless.

**Priest:** Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

**Priest:** Most holy Theotokos, save us!

**People:** More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we magnify you!

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

**People:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Master, bless.

**Priest:** May He Who endured fearful suffering, the life-giving Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh for us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, 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 loves mankind.

**People:** Amen.

*During the veneration of shroud we sing the following:*



*Tone 5*

Come, let us bless Joseph of eternal memory,  
Who came by night to Pilate  
And begged for the Life of all:  
“Give me this Stranger,  
Who from His youth has been received as a stranger in this world.  
Give me this Stranger,  
Who has no place to lay His head:  
Give me this Stranger  
Whom an evil disciple betrayed to death.  
Give me this Stranger,  
The refuge of the poor and wearry.  
Give me this Stranger,  
Whom His Mother saw hanging upon the cross,  
And, with a Mother’s sorrow cried, weeping:  
‘Woe is me, O my Child,  
Light of my eyes and Beloved of my bosom,  
For what Simeon foretold in the temple now has come to pass:  
A sword has pierced my heart;  
But change my grief to gladness by Your resurrection.’”  
We worship Your Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Your Passion, O Christ!  
We worship Your Passion, O Christ!///  
And Your Holy Resurrection.