



THE SERVICE
OF
VESPERS
WITH AN
ENTRANCE

THE LITURGICAL ARTS ACADEMY
455 QUAIL RIDGE ROAD
SALEM, SOUTH CAROLINA
29676

PRIEST:

Blessed is our God always, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

1ST CHOIR:

Amen.

If Vespers was preceded by 9th Hour, we begin immediately at the † on the next page with “Come, let us worship...” and Psalm 103. Otherwise, we begin as laid out below.

PRIEST:

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, everywhere present and filling all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

READER:

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4

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 evil.

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 forever and to the ages of ages.

READER:

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12)*

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



Come, let us worship, and bow down before our God and King.

Come, let us worship, and bow down before Christ, our God and King.

Come, let us worship, and bow down before him, Christ our God and our King.

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great; you have clothed yourself with thanksgiving and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heaven like a curtain; who roofs his upper chambers with the waters; who makes the clouds his chariot; who walks on the wings of the wind; who makes his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire; who establishes the earth on its sure foundation; it shall not be moved forever and ever. The deep covers it like a garment; the waters shall stand upon the mountains. Before your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound of your thunder they shall be afraid. They go up the mountains and down to the plains, to the place you established for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass, neither shall they again cover the earth. He sends the springs into the valleys; the waters shall run between the mountains. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses shall await them to quench their thirst. The birds of heaven shall dwell beside them; they shall call out from the midst of the rocks. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of your works. He causes grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, that he may bring forth bread out of the earth, and wine makes glad the heart of man; that he may make his face cheerful with oil, and bread

strengthens man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which you planted. There the sparrows shall make their nests; the heron's dwelling is foremost among them. The high mountains are for the deer; the rock is a refuge for the hares. He made the moon for seasons; the sun knows the time of its setting. You appointed darkness, and it was night; in it shall all the beasts of the forest go forth, young lions roaring for their prey, seeking their food from God. The sun rose, and they gathered themselves together, and they shall lie down to sleep in their dens. Man shall go forth to his work, and to his labor until evening. How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creation. This is the sea, great and wide; in it are creeping things innumerable, living things both small and great. There the ships are passing by; this dragon, which you formed to play in it. All things look to you to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they shall gather it; when you open your hand, all things shall be filled with goodness. When you turn away your face, they shall be troubled; you shall take away their spirit, and they shall die, and shall return to their dust. You shall send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created; and you shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord endure to the ages; the Lord shall rejoice in his works. He looks on the earth, and makes it tremble; he touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being. May my meditation be pleasing to Him; as for me, I will rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners perish from the earth, and transgressors, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

and again:

The sun knows the time of its setting. You appointed darkness, and it was night. How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God. (2)

and the reader intones:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God. Our hope, O Lord, glory to you.

THE GREAT LITANY

DEACON:

1. **I**n peace, let us pray to the Lord.

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy. *(after each petition)*

DEACON:

2. **F**or the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

3. **F**or the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord..

4. **F**or this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

5. **F**or pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

6. **F**or our archbishop *(name)*, for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

7. **F**or our country, the president, all those in public service, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

2ND CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy. *(after each petition)*

DEACON:

8. **F**or the Great and Holy Church of Christ, for our Holy Archdiocese, for this Holy Metropolis, for this city and parish, for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

9. **F**or favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

10. **F**or those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

11. **F**or our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and distress, let us pray to

the Lord.

12. **H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, 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 to Christ our God.

2ND CHOIR:

To you, O Lord.

PRIEST:

For to you belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

1ST CHOIR:

Amen.

At this point, the appointed Kathisma from the Psalter may be read (or, if appointed, “Blessed is the man” is chanted, followed by the Small Litany below.

If, however, the Kathisma is not read (or if “Blessed is the man” is not chanted), we continue immediately on the next page with Psalms 140, 141, 129, and 116.

SMALL LITANY

DEACON:

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

2ND CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON:

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

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON:

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

2ND CHOIR:

To you, O Lord.

PRIEST:

For yours is the 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.

1ST CHOIR:

Amen.

PSALM 140

1. **L**ord, I have cried to you; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to you; hear me. Give ear to my voice in my supplication. When I cry to you, hear me, O Lord.

2. **L**et my prayer be set forth as incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

3. **S**et a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

4. **I**ncline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

5. **W**ith men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.

6. **T**he righteous man shall correct me with mercy, and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

7. **F**or my prayer shall be intense in the presence of their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the rock.

8. **T**hey shall hear my words, for they are pleasant. As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so their bones were scattered beside the grave.

9. **F**or my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward you; in you I hope; take not my soul away.

10. **K**eeep me from the snares they set for me, and from the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

11. **S**inners shall fall into their own net; I am alone, until I escape.

PSALM 141

1. **I** cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I prayed to the Lord.

2. **I** shall pour out my supplication before him; I shall declare my affliction in his presence.

3. **W**hen my spirit fainted within me, then you knew my paths.

4. **F**or on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

5. **I** looked on my right, and saw there was no one who knew me.
6. **R**e Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared for my soul.
7. **I** cried to you, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope, my portion in the land of the living."
8. **A**ttend to my supplication, for I was humbled exceedingly.
9. **D**eliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

At this point, the choirs begin inserting the appointed hymns of the Stichera between the Psalmic verses below.

For 10 Stichera

10th verse: **B**ring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name. *(sticheron, if appointed)*

9th verse: **T**he righteous shall wait for me, until you reward me. *(sticheron, if appointed)*

PSALM 129

For 8 Stichera

8th verse: **O**ut of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. *(sticheron, if appointed)*

7th verse: **L**et your ears be attentive to my voice in my supplication. *(sticheron, if appointed)*

For 6 Stichera

6th verse: **I**f you should mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For there is forgiveness with you. *(sticheron)*

5th verse: **F**or your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord; my soul has waited for your word; my soul has hoped in the Lord. *(sticheron)*

4th verse: **F**rom the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord. *(sticheron)*

3rd verse: **F**or with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption; and he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. *(sticheron)*

PSALM 116

2nd verse: **P**raise the Lord, all you nations; praise him, all you peoples. (*sticheron*)

1st verse: **F**or his mercy has prevailed over us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. (*sticheron*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. (*doxastikon, if appointed*)

Both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. (*theotokion or other appointed hymn*)

In the case of a concelebration, “Gladsome Light” is chanted by the clergy, with the final phrase being taken up by the left choir. If, however, there is only one priest, then it is read by the proestos.

GLADSOME LIGHT

Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps

2nd Mode

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for you to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; * and therefore the world glorifies you.

DEACON:

The evening. Prokeimenon.

*The choirs, beginning with the 1st, chant the prokeimenon of the day.
(Note: On certain feast days, a special prokeimenon may be appointed instead of those below.)*

ON SATURDAY EVENING – PSALM 92:1A

2nd Mode

The Lord is King; he has clothed himself with majesty.

1st verse: **T**he Lord has clothed himself with strength, and he has girded himself. (*92:1b*)

The Lord is King; he has clothed himself with majesty.

2nd verse: **F**or he has established the world, which shall not be moved. (*92:1c*)

The Lord is King; * he has clothed himself with majesty.



ON SUNDAY EVENING – PSALM 133:1

Plagal 4th Mode

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. *(twice)*

Verse: **Y**ou who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. *(133:2)*

Behold now, bless the Lord, * all you servants of the Lord.



ON MONDAY EVENING – PSALM 4:3B

4th Mode

The Lord will hear me when I cry to him. *(twice)*

Verse: **W**hen I called upon you, O God of my righteousness, you heard me; you set me at liberty when I was in distress. Have pity on me, and hear my prayer. *(4:1)*

The Lord will hear me * when I cry to him.



ON TUESDAY EVENING – PSALM 22:6

1st Mode

Your mercy, O Lord, shall pursue me all the days of my life. *(twice)*

Verse: **T**he Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. He has made me lie down in green pasture. *(22:1-2a)*

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



ON WEDNESDAY EVENING – PSALM 53:1

Plagal 1st Mode

Save me, O God, by your name, and judge me by your strength. *(twice)*

Verse: **H**ear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. *(53:2)*

Save me, O God, by your name, * and judge me by your strength.



ON THURSDAY EVENING – PSALM 120:2

Plagal 2nd Mode

My help shall come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *(twice)*

Verse: I have lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from whence my help shall come.
(120:1)

My help shall come from the Lord, * who made heaven and earth.



ON FRIDAY EVENING – PSALM 58:10B

Grave Mode

You, O God, are my defense; the mercy of my God shall go before me. *(twice)*

*Verse: R*escue me from my enemies, O God, and redeem me from those who rise
up against me. *(58:1)*

You, O God, are my defense; * the mercy of my God shall go before me.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

DEACON:

1. **L**et us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON:

2. **L**ord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

2ND CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON:

3. **H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times, after each petition. The two choirs continue to alternate.)*

DEACON:

4. **A**gain we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

5. **A**gain we pray for our archbishop *(name)*.

6. **A**gain we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

7. **A**gain we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

8. **A**gain we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

9. **A**gain we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await your great and rich mercy.

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy. (*once*)

PRIEST:

For you are a merciful God who love mankind, and to you we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

PROESTOS:

Amen.

THE SMALL DOXOLOGY

Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF COMPLETION

DEACON:

1. **L**et us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON:

2. **H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

1ST CHOIR:

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON:

3. **T**hat the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

1ST CHOIR:

Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON:

4. **F**or an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

1ST CHOIR:

Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON:

5. **F**or pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

2ND CHOIR:

Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON:

6. **F**or that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

2ND CHOIR:

Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON:

7. **T**hat we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

2ND CHOIR:

Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON:

8. **A**nd let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

2ND CHOIR:

Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON:

Commemorating our most holy, pure, 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 to Christ our God.

2ND CHOIR:

To you, O Lord.

PRIEST:

✠ **F**or you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

1ST CHOIR:

Amen.

PRIEST:

Pease be with all.

2ND CHOIR:

And with your spirit.

DEACON:

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

1ST CHOIR:

To you, O Lord.

PRIEST (QUIETLY):

PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF THE HEADS

Lord our God, you inclined the heavens and descended for the salvation of humankind. Look on your servants and your inheritance. For they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you the awesome yet compassionate judge, not looking for human help but awaiting your mercy and in expectation of your redemption. Preserve them at all times and during this evening and the impending night, from every enemy, from all opposing demonic activity, from vain thoughts and evil dreams.

PRIEST (ALLOUD):

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR:

Amen.

If the Liti (Entreaty) is to be sung, it occurs at this point, and the Aposticha follow immediately after. Otherwise, the choirs continue directly with the appointed hymns of the Aposticha.

PRIEST:

THE SONG OF SYMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now you are letting 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 peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

READER:

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4

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 evil.

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 forever and to the ages of ages.

1ST CHOIR:

Amen.

At this point, the choirs sing the appointed dismissal hymns (apolytikia).

THE DISMISSAL

DEACON:

Wisdom.

1ST CHOIR:

Father, bless.

PRIEST:

Blessed is he who is, Christ our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

PROESTOS:

Amen. The Lord God make firm the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Great Church of Christ, our holy Archdiocese, this holy Metropolis, and this city, to the ages of ages.

PRIEST:

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

READER:

More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, you do we magnify.

PRIEST:

Glory to you, O Christ our God. Glory to you.

READER:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Holy Father, give the blessing.

PRIEST:

May [he who rose from the dead] Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of

the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, [*of saint(s) _____ whose memory we celebrate*], and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and merciful and loves mankind.

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

1ST CHOIR:

Amen.

ATTRIBUTIONS

- ❖ **T**he texts of the Trisagion Prayers and the various Litanies and exclamations by the clergy are from the Digital Chant Stand of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.
- ❖ **T**he Psalmic texts are from *The Psalter of David the Prophet and King with the Nine Odes*, translated by Nicholas Roumas. The texts of the Small Doxology and “More Honorable than the Cherubim” are also his work; all are used with his kind permission.