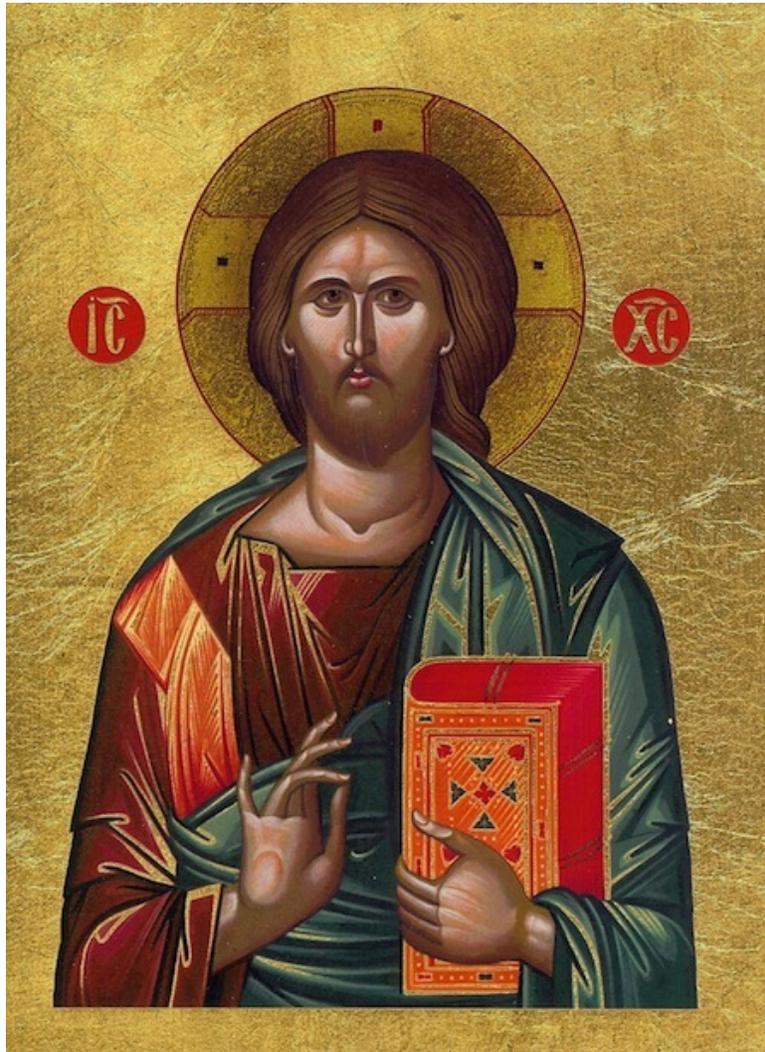


The Liturgy of the Hours

Byzantine-Slavonic Rite



GREAT VESPERS

Evening Prayer

**READER SERVICE
IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST**

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Byzantine-Slavonic Rite

GREAT VESPERS

Evening Prayer

**READER SERVICE
IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST**

Opening Prayers

Leader: † Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Response: Amen.

On Feasts of Vigil Rank

Proceed to "Come, let us bow in worship" (Bottom of Page 4)

Between Pascha and Ascension Thursday

There is a different order during Bright Week (see Propers)

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,
and to those in tombs giving life. *Three Times***

Proceed to "Holy God" (Below)

Between Ascension Thursday & Pentecost

Proceed to "Holy God" (Below)

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all that defiles us, and O Good One, save our souls.

† Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.
Three Times

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One, for the sake of Your Name.

Lord, have mercy. *Three Times*

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Leader: † Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *Twelve Times*

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

† Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God.

† Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God.

† Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord, Jesus Christ, our King and God.

Psalm 103

The Byzantine liturgical day follows the ancient Jewish reckoning of a day, which began at sunset. The new liturgical day thus begins at vespers, and creation is the theme of the first psalm. On Sundays and Major Feasts, an abbreviated version is often chanted.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! * You are very great, O Lord, my God!
Clothed in pomp and brilliance, * arrayed with light as with a cloak.
Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth, * covering your lofty halls with
waters.
You make the clouds your conveyance, * You surge on the wings of the
wind.
You make spirits your messengers, * and flaming fires your attendants.
You settle the earth on its firm foundation, * it shall stand unmoved from
age to age.
The abyss covers it, like a garment, * waters stand over the mountains.
At Your rebuke they will take flight, * at the peal of your thunder they
will fear.
They hurdle the hills and run down the dales, * to the place You have
chosen for them.
You have set up a boundary not to be passed, * they shall never return to
cover the earth.
Down in the gullies You make springs to rise, * water shall go down
between the mountains.
They shall give drink to the beasts of the field, * wild asses will seek them
to quench their thirst.
The birds of the sky will abide by them, * from among the rocks they will
raise their song.
From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains, * the earth shall be fed
with the fruit of Your works.
You make green pastures for the cattle, * and food-plants for the service
of man.

So that bread may be brought forth from the earth, * and wine that
gladdens the heart of man.

So that oil may put a gleam upon his face, * and that bread may
strengthen the heart of man.

The trees of the plain will be satisfied, * the cedars of Lebanon that he
planted.

The sparrows will build their nests in them, * and the herons will call
them their home.

To the deer belong high mountains, * to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons, * the sun knows the time
of its setting.

You establish darkness and it is night, * wherein the forest creatures
prowl around.

Young lions roar for their prey, * and call out to God for their meat.

As the sun rises, they will come together; * and lay themselves down in
their dens.

Man will go out to his labor, * and work until eventide.

How great are your works, O Lord, * in wisdom You have wrought them
all.

The earth is filled with your creatures, * Even the wide and open sea
itself.

Within it there are countless creeping things, * living beings small and
large.

Upon it there are ships a-sailing, * and that great beast You made to have
fun.

All of them look up to You, * to give them their food in due time.

You provide and they gather up, * You open your hand and they are full.

You hide your face and they cringe, * You suspend their breath, and they
die and return to their dust.

You send forth your breath and they live, * You renew the face of the
earth.

May the Lord's glory endure forever, * may the Lord rejoice in His works.
He looks upon the earth and makes it quake, * He touches the mountains
and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, * I will praise my God as long as I
last!

Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him, * and I will rejoice in the
Lord!

May sinners vanish from the earth, * and may the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows the time of its setting; * You establish darkness, and it is
night.

How great are your works, O Lord, * in wisdom You have wrought them
all!

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. † Glory be to You, O God. *Three Times*

Instead of the Great Litany

Lord, have mercy.

Twelve Times

† **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and ever. Amen.**

Reading from the Psalter

In the Byzantine tradition, the Psalter is divided into twenty readings (kathisma), each of which is divided into three sections (stasis), so that all the psalms can be read at vespers and matins throughout the week. The first kathisma (Psalms 1-8) is usually read on the eves of Sundays and Major Feasts. The following is a customary abbreviation:

Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the wicked.

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wicked shall be lost.
Serve the Lord with fear, exalt in Him with trembling.

Blessed are those who trust in Him.

Sundays: Arise, O Lord, save me, my God!

Feasts: How many are my foes, O Lord, how many are rising up against me.
Salvation is of the Lord! Upon Your people Your blessing.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and forever and ever, Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. † Glory be to You, O God! *Three Times*

Instead of the Small Litany

Lord, have mercy.

Three Times

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and ever. Amen.



The Lamp-Lighting Psalms

Psalm 140

The first two verses are chanted in the tone of the first stikheron:

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me, * hear me, O Lord. * O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me, * receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon You. ** Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer rise like incense before You, * the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. ** Hear me, O Lord.

The psalms continue with the people alternating sides:

- A:** Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth * and a portal around my lips.
- B:** Incline my heart away from evil dealings, * from finding excuses for sinful deeds.
- A:** In company with those who work iniquity, * let me not partake of what they choose.
- B:** May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me. * May the oil of the wicked never touch my head.
- A:** Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare, * their rulers were swallowed near the rock.
- B:** My words shall be heard for they were sweet. * As a lump of clay broken on the ground, so their bones were strewn near the grave.
- A:** To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up. * In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.
- B:** Keep me from the snare that was set for me, * and from the stumbling blocks of the wicked.
- A:** The wicked shall fall into their own nets, * while I remain alone until I can escape.

Psalm 141

- B:** With my voice I cried to the Lord. * With all my voice I implored the Lord.
- A:** Before Him I pour out my supplication. * Before Him I declare my distress.
- B:** When my breath was escaping me, * then You knew my paths.
- A:** On the road upon which I was walking, * they set up snares for me.
- B:** I looked to my right and observed, * there was no one friendly to me.
- A:** Even flight was denied me; * there was no one to take care of my life.
- B:** I cried out to You, O Lord, and said: * You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.
- A:** Listen to my supplication, * for I am laid very low.
- B:** Deliver me from my oppressors, * for they have overwhelmed me.

Stikhera

*Stikhera are ancient poetic compositions set between psalm verses.
They contain the theology of the feast and of the saint being celebrated.*

- 10:** Lead my soul forth from prison, * that I may give *thanks* to your name.
- 9:** The just shall gather around me, * when You have been *good* to me.

Psalm 129

- 8:** Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord, * O Lord, *hear* my voice.
- 7:** Let your ears be attentive, * to the *voice* of my prayer.
- 6:** If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.
- 5:** I have waited for You, as You have commanded; * my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.
- 4:** From the morning watch until night * let Israel trust in the Lord.

3: For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Psalm 116

2: Praise the Lord, all the nations * proclaim His glory, all you people.

1: Strong is the love of the Lord for us, * eternally will His truth endure.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and forever * and ever. Amen.

TRANQUIL (JOYFUL) LIGHT

Third-century Text

Galician Chant, translated, set
and arranged by Conrad B. Dachuck

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The text is: "Tran-quiet Light, of the ho-ly glo-ry of the im-mor-tal heav-en-ly, ho-ly, bless-ed Fa-ther, O Je-sus Christ: as we come up-on the sun-set, as we see the eve-ning light, we sing to God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it."



At all times You are wor-thy of be-ing hymn'd by joy-ful
voic - es; O Son of God, You are the Giv-er of Life.
For this the whole world glo - ri - fies You.

Prokeimenon

The prokeimenon is a refrain made up of psalm or canticle verses.

Many Feasts have their own special Prokeimenon (see Propers)

Saturday Evening *(Tone 6)*

The Lord is King * He is clothed in majesty.

Verse: The Lord is robed and girt about with strength.

Verse: For He has established the universe: it shall not be moved.

Verse: Holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days.

Sunday Evening *(Tone 8)*

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

Verse: Who stand in the temple of the Lord, in the courtyards of the house of our God.

Monday Evening *(Tone 4)*

The Lord hears me * when I cry out to Him.

Verse: Whenever I called, the God of my justice heard me.

Tuesday Evening *(Tone 1)*

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

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
In green pastures He gives me repose.

Wednesday Evening *(Tone 5)*

O Lord, save me by your Name, * and in your power be a judge for me.

Verse: O God, hear my prayer! Give ear to the words I speak.

Thursday Evening *(Tone 6)*

My help is from the Lord * who made heaven and earth.

Verse: I lifted up my eyes to the mountains from where my help shall come.

Friday Evening *(Tone 7)*

O God, You are my Defender, * and Your mercy goes before me.

Verse: Deliver me from my enemies, O God, save me from those
who rise up against me.

Old Testament Readings

Instead of the Litany of Fervent Supplication

Lord, have mercy. *Forty Times*

**† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and ever. Amen.**

Then:

Deign, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

† Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is
Your Name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, because we have set our hope in You.

† Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me your commandments.

† Blessed are You, O Master, make me understand your commandments.

† Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with your laws.

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever do not despise the work of your hands.

It is proper to praise You, and hymns belong to You.

Glory belongs to You, † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

Instead of the Litany of Petitions

Lord, have mercy.

Twelve Times

**† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and ever. Amen.**

Lytia

From the Greek word for a fervent prayer, the lytia is a procession that takes place on major feasts. It is accompanied by hymns containing the theology of the feast, and is followed by petitions for the Church and the world.

Apostikha

*The apostikha (“[hymns] on the verses”) form an acrostic in the original Greek.
They contain the theology of the feast being celebrated.*

Many Feasts have their own special verses for the Apostikha (see Propers)

Saturday Evening

Verse: The Lord reigns; He is clothed in majesty *
Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.

Verse: For He has made the world firm, * which shall not be moved.

Verse: Holiness befits your house, O Lord, * for the length of days.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever * and ever. Amen.

Weekday Evenings

Verse: I have lifted up my eyes to You enthroned in heaven. Behold, as
the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters, as the eyes
of a maid are on the hands of her mistress, * so are our eyes on the
Lord our God until He has mercy on us.

Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for we have been
filled with shame; * our soul is all too full of the mockery of the
rich, of the contempt of the proud.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever * and ever. Amen.

Canticle of Simeon

On weekdays, the canticle is usually plain chanted

But on Sundays and Major Feasts, the canticle is often chanted in Tone 5, Bulgarian:

Tone 5
Galician "Bulgarian" Chant

Unison

S
A

Now, O Mas-ter, You have kept Your prom - ise;
let Your serv - ant go in peace.

Harmony

With my own eyes I have seen the sal - va - tion
which You have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple;
a Light to re - veal You to the Gen - tiles,
and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple, Is - ra - el!

Trisagion Prayers

† Holy God, Holy & Mighty, Holy & Immortal, have mercy on us.

Three Times

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your Name.

Lord, have mercy. *Three Times*

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Leader: † Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Troparia

The troparion is the principal theme or antiphon of the feast. See Propers.

If Lytia Was Served

† Blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever. *Three times*

Psalm 33 (First Part)

I will bless the Lord at all times; * His praise shall be ever on my lips.

My soul shall glory in the Lord: * let the meek hear and rejoice.

Magnify the Lord with me, * and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He heard me, * and delivered me from all my fears.

Approach the Lord and be enlightened, * and your face shall never be shamed.

This wretched man cried out, and the Lord heard him, * and delivered him from all his afflictions.

The angel of the Lord will stand guard * around those who fear the Lord, and save them.

Taste and see how good the Lord is. * Blessed is the man who hopes in him.

Fear the Lord, all you His faithful ones, * for those who fear Him shall want for nothing.

The rich have become poor and hungry * but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good.

Dismissal

O God, strengthen the holy orthodox faith forever and ever!

More honorable than the Cherubim, and by far more glorious than the Seraphim. Ever a Virgin you gave birth to God the Word. O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Except Between Pascha to Ascension Thursday

Shine, Shine, O New Jerusalem! * For the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! * Exult now and be glad, O Sion! * And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight ** in the resurrection of your Son.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now and forever and ever. Amen. * Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. ** Give the blessing.

Except Between Pascha and Ascension Thursday

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, *
And to those in the tombs giving life. *
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. **
Give the blessing!

Leader: † Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Response: Amen.

Between Pascha and Ascension Thursday

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,
and to those in tombs giving life. *Three Times*

And to us He has granted life eternal,
We bow down before His resurrection on the third day.

The Fulfillment
&
Glory Be To God!

