

**GREAT VESPERS**  
**Sunday Before the Exaltation**  
**Nativity of the Mother of God**

**Priest:** Glory be to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

Come, let us adore the King Our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

**PSALM 103**

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 water,

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.

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory be to You, O God! *(3 times)*

#### **LITANY OF PEACE**

**Priest:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most holy Pontiff **[N]** Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our most blessed Patriarch **[N]**, our most reverend Metropolitan **[N]** the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For favorable 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 the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

*(stand)*

**KATHISMA**

Blessed is the one – Alleluia

Who has not walked in the counsel of the wicked ..... Alleluia

For the Lord knows the way of the just,

But the way of the wicked shall be lost..... Alleluia

Serve the Lord with fear,

Exalt in Him with trembling..... Alleluia

Blessed are those

who trust in Him..... Alleluia

Arise, O Lord!  
Save me my God!..... Alleluia

Salvation is of the Lord!  
upon your people be your blessing ..... Alleluia

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.(3X)

**O Lord I Have Cried to You (Psalm 140)**

***Tone 7***

O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.  
Hear me O my Lord!  
O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.  
Give heed to the voice of my prayer  
When I call upon you.  
Hear me, O my Lord.

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

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth  
And a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,  
From finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,  
Let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me;  
May the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.  
Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

My words will be heard, for they were sweet.  
As a lump of clay broken on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.  
In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set for me,  
And from the stumbling-blocks of the wicked.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets,  
While I remain alone until I can escape.

**PSALM 141**

With my voice I cried to the Lord  
With all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplications;  
Before Him I declare my distress.

When my breath was escaping me,  
Then you knew my paths;

On the road upon which I was walking  
They set up snares for me.

I looked to my right and observed.  
There was no one to take care of my life.

I cried out to You, O Lord, and said  
You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Listen to my supplication,  
For I am laid very low.

Deliver me from my oppressors,  
For they have overwhelmed me.

Lead my soul forth from prison  
That I may give thanks to your name.

The just shall gather around me  
When You have been good to me.

**PSALM 129**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
O Lord hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive  
To the voice of my prayer.**

**Tone 7**

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,,  
Who destroyed the power of Death  
and enlightened the human race;  
and let us cry out with the angels:  
Glory to You, our Creator and Savior!

**If You mark iniquities, O Lord, who can stand?  
But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.**

O Savior, for our sake You suffered crucifixion and burial;  
and, as God, You destroyed Death by Your death.  
Therefore, we adore Your resurrection on the third day  
and we sing: Glory to You, O Lord!

**I have waited for You as You have commanded;  
My soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.**

On seeing the resurrection of the Creator,  
the apostles were amazed,  
and they sang an angelic hymn of praise:  
This is the glory of the Church,  
this is the richness of the kingdom!  
O Lord, Who suffered for our sake, glory to You!

**From the morning watch until night, Let Israel trust in the Lord.**

#### **Tone 6**

Today God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven  
welcomes on earth the holy throne which He had prepared for himself.  
In his love for the human race,  
He who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven.  
From a barren stem He has brought forth for us his Mother  
as a branch full of life.  
O God of miracles and hope of those who have no hope;  
O Lord, glory to You!

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

This is the day of the Lord:  
Rejoice, therefore, O nations!  
Behold, the chamber of Light and the scroll of the living Word  
has come forth from the womb.  
The gate that opens to the Rising Sun  
and is ready for the entrance of the High Priest, is here today.  
She is the only one who introduced Christ, and Christ alone, into the world  
for the salvation of our souls.

**Praise the Lord, all the Nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.**

Indeed some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God;  
but the nativity of Mary surpasses all nativities  
in honor and splendor  
as it is worthy of the majesty of God.

For she was born in a miraculous way of a barren mother,  
and she herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,  
incarnate in her womb without human seed  
against the laws of nature.  
She alone is the door through which the only- begotten Son of God  
has passed while leaving it sealed  
as He had planned in his eternal wisdom.  
Thus did He bring salvation to all

**Strong is the love of the Lord for us; eternally will His truth endure.**

Today Anne, the barren one, gives birth to the maiden of God  
who had been chosen from all the human generations  
to become the dwelling place of the Creator,  
Christ our God and the King of all.  
In her He fulfilled his divine plan  
through which our human nature was renewed,  
and by which we were to be transferred from corruption to eternal life.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

Today God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven  
welcomes on earth the holy throne which He had prepared for himself.  
In his love for the human race,  
He who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven.  
From a barren stem He has brought forth for us his Mother  
as a branch full of life.  
O God of miracles and hope of those who have no hope;  
O Lord, glory to You

**Theotokion:**

**Tone 7**

**Now and ever and forever.- Amen.**

O Mother of God, we acknowledge that you are both a mother and a virgin,  
even though this is beyond the power of nature.  
Who could ever understand or explain such a mystery?  
O most pure Virgin, the manner in which you conceived was most glorious,  
and the mere thought of your bearing God himself within you is astounding.  
Moreover, who could even begin to describe the wondrous way in which you gave birth?  
But when God so wills, the very order of nature is abolished.  
Because of this, we all recognize you as truly the Mother of God,  
and we fervently beseech you:  
Pray for the salvation of our souls.

**Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!**

## **HYMN OF LIGHT**

O Joyful Light!

Light and Holy Glory of the Father immortal,  
The heavenly, holy the Blessed One: O Jesus Christ!  
Now that we have reached the setting of the sun;  
And see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured  
melody to You, O Son of God, the Giver of Life.  
Behold the universe sings Your glory.

**Priest:** Let us be attentive. Peace be with all. Wisdom let us be attentive.

### **Prokimen:**

The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty

**Verse:** 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 length of days.

**Priest:** Wisdom.

**Reader :** A reading from the book of Genesis

**Priest:** Let us be attentive.

At that time Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran. When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the Lord standing beside him and saying: "I, the Lord, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out east and west, north and south. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, "Truly, the Lord is in this spot, although I did not know it!" In solemn wonder he cried out: "How awesome is this shrine! This is nothing else but an abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven! "

## **THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Priest:** Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord Almighty, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You,



hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff **[N]**, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch **[N]**, our most reverend Metropolitan **[N]**, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

**Priest:** For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

#### **HYMN OF GLORIFICATION**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name for ever.

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Priest:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord

**Priest:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

**People:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ Our God.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** For You, O God are good and the lover of us all and we give You glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Bow your heads to the Lord.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** (silently) O Lord our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads before You, the Judge, both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams.

May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

### **APOSTICA**

#### **Tone 7**

O Savior of the World, You arose from the grave,  
and together with Your own flesh You raised up mankind.  
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Come, let us worship Christ Who arose from the dead  
and enlightened all creation.

For by His resurrection on the third day,  
He set us free from the oppression of Hades,  
granting us life and His great mercy.

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

O Christ, Lover of Mankind,  
You descended into Hades and destroyed Death.  
Then You arose on the third day;  
and, together with yourself, You lifted up all of us  
who glorify Your mighty resurrection.

**Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.**

O Lord, what a fearful sight it was to see You lying in the tomb as if asleep.  
Yet on the third day You arose in great power,  
and at the same time You raised up Adam who joyfully cried out:  
Glory to Your Resurrection, O Lover of Mankind!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

#### **Tone 8**

Come all you faithful and let us hasten to the Virgin;  
for long before her conception in the womb,  
the one who was to be born of the root of Jesse  
was destined to be the Mother of our God.  
The one who is the treasury of virginity,  
the flowering rod of Aaron, the object of the prophecies,  
the child of Joachim and Anne is born today,  
and the world is renewed in her.  
Through her birth, the Church is clothed with splendor.  
O holy Temple, vessel of the Godhead,  
model of virgins and strength of kings,

in you the wondrous union of the two natures of Christ was realized.  
We worship Him and glorify your most pure birth,  
and the whole world extols you

**now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

O Virgin, You have never known wedlock,  
yet you conceived God in the flesh  
in a manner which words can never describe.  
You thus became the Mother of God on high.  
O Immaculate Lady, receive the supplication of your servants  
and grant us the cleansing of our sins.  
Accept now our prayers and beseech God to save all of us

**HYMN OF SIMEON**

Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord,  
According to Your Word in peace;  
Because my eyes have seen Your salvation  
Which You have prepared before the face of all people,  
A light to the revelation of the Gentiles  
And the glory of Your people, Israel.

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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever 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. *(3 times)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever 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.

**Priest:** For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now  
and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**Tropar Tone 7**

By Your cross You destroyed death;  
You opened Paradise to the thief;  
You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,

and charged the apostles to proclaim  
that You are risen, O Christ, our God,  
offering great mercy to the world.

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

**Tone 4**

Your birth, O Virgin Mother of God,  
heralded joy to the universe;  
for from you rose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God.  
He took away the curse,  
He gave the blessing,  
and by trampling death,  
He gave us everlasting life.

**DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**People:** Give the blessing!

**Priest:** Blessed are You, O Christ our God, now and for ever and ever.

**People:** Amen. O God, strengthen the true faith forever and ever.

**Priest:** O most holy Mother of God, save us!

**People:** 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.

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

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3x) Give the blessing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, through the prayers of his most holy Mother whose Nativity we solemnly celebrate, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, and through the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us for He is gracious and loves all of us.

**People:** Amen