The Order of Vespers on Palm Sunday

for celebration without a priest

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

March 2020
The Order of Sunday Evening Vespers on Palm Sunday

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

Psalm tone:


Glory to you, our God,
glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us from all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

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

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response:

A - men.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(sung twice)

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 forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship our King and God. (bow)
Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God. (bow)
Come, let us bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, (bow)
the King and our God.

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe.
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.  
   Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
   you walk on the wings of the wind;  

you make your angels spirits  
   and your ministers a flaming fire.  
You founded the earth on its base,  
   to stand firm from age to age.  

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
   the waters stood higher than the mountains.  
At your threat they took to flight;  
   at the voice of your thunder they fled.  

They rose over the mountains and flowed down  
   to the place which you had appointed.  
You set limits they might not pass  
   lest they return to cover the earth.  

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
   they flow in between the hills.  
They give drink to all the beasts of the field;  
   the wild asses quench their thirst.  

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
   from the branches they sing their song.  
From your dwelling they water the hills;  
   earth drinks its fill of your gift.  

You make the grass grow for the cattle  
   and the plants to serve man's needs,  
that he may bring forth bread from the earth  
   and wine to cheer man's heart;  

oil, to make his face shine  
   and bread to strengthen man's heart.  
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,  
   the cedars he planted on Lebanon;
there the birds build their nests;
on the treetop the stork has her home.
The goats find a home on the mountains
and rabbits hide in the rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for its setting.
When you spread the darkness it is night
and all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

The young lions roar for their prey
and ask their food from God.
At the rising of the sun they steal away
and go to rest in their dens.

Man goes out to his work,
to labor till evening falls.
How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.
The ships are moving there,
and the monsters you made to play with.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up;
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord last forever!
    May the Lord rejoice in his works!
He looks on the earth and it trembles;
    the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
    make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
    I find my joy in the Lord.

Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.
    Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*And again:*
You made the moon to mark the months;
    the sun knows the time for its setting.
How many 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,
    now and ever and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory to you, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory to you, O God!

*And the third time, to melody:*

Lord, have mercy.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
    now and ever and forever. Amen.
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 pray'r when I call up on you. Hear me, O Lord!
Let my pray'r ascend to you like incense and the lifting up of my hands like an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth and set a seal on the door of my lips. Let not my heart be inclined to evil, nor make excuse for the sins I commit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting. If a just man strikes or reproves me it is kindness but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head. Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock; then they understood that my words were kind. As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground, so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.
To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned; 
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe; 
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set 
while I pursue my way unharmed.

Psalm 141
With all my voice I cry to the Lord, 
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him; 
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints within me.

But you, O Lord, know my path. 
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see: 
there is no one who takes my part.

I have no means of escape, 
not one who cares for my soul.
I cry to you, O Lord. 
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of the living."

Listen, then, to my cry 
for I am in the depths of distress.
Rescue me from those who pursue me 
for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of this prison 
and then I shall praise your name.
Around me the just will assemble 
because of your goodness to me.

Psalm 129
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; 
Lord hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive 
to the voice of my pleading.
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Rejoice, O city of Zion, and dance with joy, O Church of God; for behold your King comes to you in meekness and humility; the children welcome him and sing: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, O Compassionate Lord. Have mercy on us!

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

(Repeat "Rejoice, O city of Zion...".)
Cantor:

Let the watchman count on day-break and Is-ra-el on the Lord.

The Savior has come into the city of Jerusalem today to fulfill the Scriptures. See the people spread their garments along the way; they carry palms and branches in their hands, and recognize that he indeed is our God.

And the cherubim sing to him unceasingly: blessed are you, O compassionate Lord; have mercy on us!

Cantor (on 3)

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Is-ra-el indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

(Repeat "The Savior has come into the city of Jerusalem today...")
Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

You are seated upon the throne of the cherubim and are praised by the seraphim; as did David, you rode upon an ass. The children praise you as God; the Pharisees blaspheme you unjustly; and your riding up on the colt shows forth the conversion of the pagans.

O only Lover of humanity and compassionate Lord: glory to you!

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

(Repeat "You are seated upon the throne of the cherubim..."

The faithful STAND.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Re-joice, O ci-ty of Zi - on, and dance with joy, O Church of God;
for be-hold your King comes to you in meekness and hu-mil-i - ty; the chil-dren
wel-come him and sing: Ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed are you, O
Com-pas-sion ate Lord. Have mer-cy on us!


You are seat-ed upon the throne of the cher-u-bim and are praised by the
ser-a-phim; as did Da-vid, you rode up-on an ass. The chil-dren praise
you as God; the Phar-isees blasphem-e you un-just - ly; and your rid-ing
up-on the colt shows forth the conversion of the pa-gans.
A candle may be lit, representing the light of Christ. All stand and sing:

**Hymn of the Evening**

O Joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father Immortal,

the heavenly, holy, 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. Therefore, the universe sings your glory.
The Evening Prokeimenon

Prokeimenon of Sunday evening - Tone 8 (Psalm 133:1; 2)

Come, bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord; come, bless the Lord,

Leader Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

All repeat the Prokeimenon.

Hymn of Glorification

Make us worthy, O Lord,
    to be kept sinless this evening.
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
    and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Amen
May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
    because we have placed our hope in you.
Blessed are you, O Lord,
    (bow) teach me your commandments.
Blessed are you, O Master,
    (bow) make me understand your commandments.
Blessed are you, O Holy One,
    (bow) enlighten me with your commandments.

Lord, your mercy is forever;
    despise not the work of your hands.
Passing from the feast of palms and branches, O faithful, to the venerable and saving solemnity of the sufferings of Christ, let us behold him who voluntarily endures his Passion for us, and in thanks-giving, let us sing: O Fountain of mercy and Harbor of salvation, O Lord, glory to you!

To you is due praise, to you is due a hymn; to you is glory due. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

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

Aposticha

Tone 2 samohlasen

Passing from the feast of palms and branches, O faithful, to the venerable and saving solemnity of the sufferings of Christ, let us behold him who voluntarily endures his Passion for us, and in thanks-giving, let us sing: O Fountain of mercy and Harbor of salvation, O Lord, glory to you!
Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.

It is awesome to fall into the hands of the living God! For he judges our thoughts and the secrets of our hearts; let no one test his irreproachable fidelity! But in fear and humility, let us go to Christ and beseech his help and great mercy.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

O Jerusalem, light your lamp to welcome the Lord who shall come like the Bridegroom in the middle of the night; he shall renew his covenant with you,

O new Zion, through the testament that you shall inherit. For he
shall not suffer outside your walls, O Jerusalem. He is the One sent by the Father; the prophets proclaim him as the Son who shall come to fulfill the prophecies; the children praise him and sing out: Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Passing from the feast of palms and branches, O faithful, to the venerable and saving solemnity of the sufferings of Christ, let us behold him who voluntarily endures his Passion for us, and in thanksgiving, let us sing:
O Fountain of mercy and Harbor of salvation, O Lord,
glory to you!

Tone 3 samhlasen

Cantor:

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 3 samhlasen

It is awesome to fall into the hands of the living God! For he
judges our thoughts and the secrets of our hearts; let no one test his
irreproachable fidelity! But in fear and humility, let us
go to Christ and beseech his help and great mercy.
The Prayer of Holy Simeon the God-Bearer

*chanted to the usual psalm tone*

Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord,
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 for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your *people* Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy *on* us. (*3 times, with a bow each time*)

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions,
    Holy One, come to us 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 forever. *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.
Response: Amen.

Dismissal for Fasts

Troparion to the Theotokos - Tone 4

Re-joice, O Vir-gin The-o-to-kos! Mar-y full of grace, the Lord is with you! Bless-ed are you a-mong wo-men, and bless-ed is the fruit of your womb. For you gave birth to Christ, the Sav-ior and Re-deem-er of our souls.

Prostration

Cantor

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

Troparion to John the Forerunner - Tone 4

O Bap-tiz-er of Christ, re-mem-ber us all, that we be delivered from our trans-gres-sions; for you have been giv-en grace to in-ter-cede on
Troparion to the saints - Tone 4

Pray for us, O holy apostles and all you saints, that we be delivered from danger and affliction, for we have you as our fervent intercessors before the Savior.

Then this hymn to the Theotokos, using either melody:

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Virgin Theotokos. Despise not our pray'rs, our pray'rs in our need, but deliver us from dangers, for you alone are pure, for you
a lone are pure, for you a lone are pure and bless ed.

Be neath your compas-sion we take ref uge, O Vir-gin The-o-to kos.

De spise not our pray'rs in our need, but de liv er us from dan gers,

for you a lone are pure and bless ed.

The following is sung four times:

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

Leader: King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world, and safeguard this city [or: this holy monastery]. Grant those who have gone before us a dwelling place among the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession and have mercy, for you are good and love us all.

Response: A men.
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 forever. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,
  who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word,
  you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

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

**Response:**

The Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

**All:**

Lord and Master of my life,
  spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,
  lust for power, and idle chatter.  (*Prostration*)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant,
  the spirit of integrity, humility,
  patience, and love.  (*Prostration*)

Yes, O Lord and King,
  let me see my own sins
  and not judge my brothers and sisters;
  for you are blessed forever and ever.  Amen.  (*Prostration*)