

*The Order of Vespers on Saturdays
from Thomas Sunday
to the Leave-taking of Pascha*

**Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2007**

THE ORDER OF VESPERS

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



A - men.

Three times:



Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram - pled death,

Psalm tone:

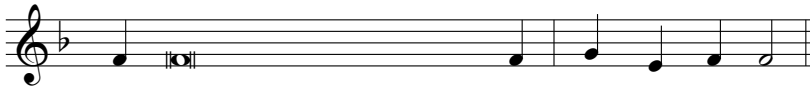


and to those in the tombs he gran - ted life. *

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.



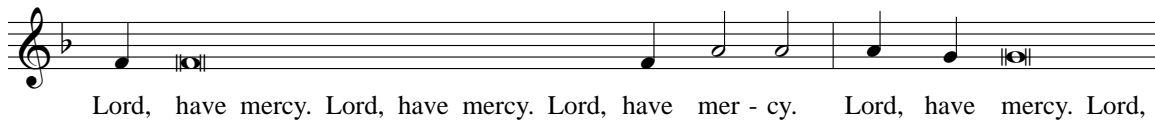
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

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.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

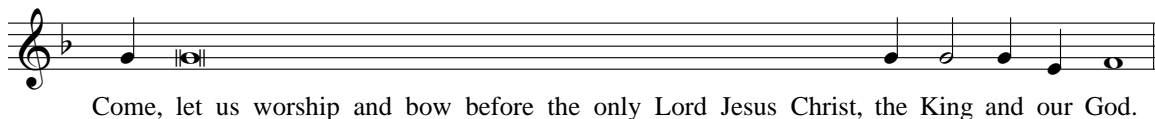
Response:



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

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:



Psalm 103 is sung. On Saturdays and feast days, the melodic version (A) may be used if so desired; or the whole text of Psalm 103 (B) may be chanted to the psalm tone.

Psalm 103 (A)





2. clothed with maj - es - ty and glo - - ry, wrapped in light as in a robe.



3. You stretch out the heav - ens like a tent. A - bove the rains you build your



dwell - ing. 4. You make the clouds your char - i - ot, you walk on



the wings of the wind; 5. you make your an - gels spir - - - its:



and your min - is - ters a flam - ing fire. 6. You found - ed the earth



on its base, to stand firm from age to age. 7. You make the grass grow for



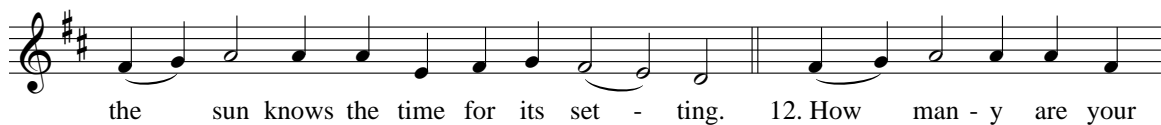
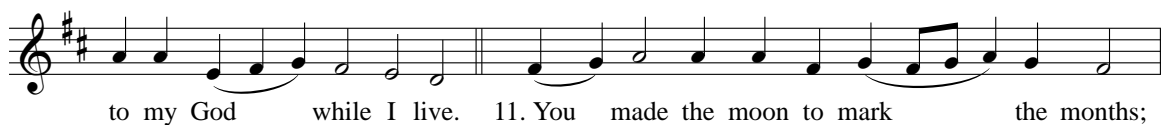
the cat - - - tle and the plants to serve man's needs, 8. that he may



bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer man's heart;



9. oil, to make his face shine and bread to strength - en



Three times, each with a reverence



Please go to page 8

Psalm 103 (B)

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Lord my God, how great **you** are,

clothed with 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.

Three times, each with a reverence:

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

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

At the last, with melody:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

The musical notation is a single line of music on a five-line staff in G major (one sharp). It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes for the first three phrases, followed by a half note for 'Glo - ry' and a quarter note for 'to you', and finally a half note for 'O God!'.

Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God,
and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop,
(*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the
clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country,
let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, [*or:* For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

The First Kathisma



1. Bless-ed is the man, al - le - lu - ia, who has not walked



in the coun - sel of the wick-ed.

Refrain:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia.



2. For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wick - ed



shall be lost.

Refrain



3. Serve the Lord with fear, ex - ult in him with trem - bling.

Refrain



4. Bless-ed are those who trust in him.

Refrain



5. A-rise, O Lord! Save me, my God.

Refrain



6. Sal - va - tion is of the Lord! Up - on your peo - ple, your bles - sing!

Refrain



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

Refrain



8. Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

Two times, each with a reverence:



Al - leluia, alleluia, allelu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

Last time, with a reverence:



Al - leluia, alleluia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

See the insert for the Lamplighting Psalms and stichera.

The Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Hymn of the Evening

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the
Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ❖ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Evening Prokeimenon

Saturday, from Psalm 92: Tone 6 samopodoben



The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns; he is clothed in maj - es - ty.

The Deacon chants the verses as follows:

- a. Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.
- b. The world he made firm, not to be moved.
- c. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

If Vespers is being sung on any night other than Saturday, the Prokeimenon of the day of the week is sung. Please turn to page 24 in the Appendix for these Prokeimena.

[Readings]

Litany of Fervent Supplication


Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: 
3. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend archbishop and metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response: 
4. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times , using response 4.*)


Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times , using response 3.*)

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

Response: 
A - men.

Hymn of Glorification



Make us wor - thy, O Lord, to be kept sin - less this eve - ning.

Bless-ed are you, O Lord, the God of our fa - thers, and praise-wor - thy
and glorious is your name for ev - er. A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord,
be up-on us who have placed our hope in you. Bless-ed are you O
reverence
Lord; teach me your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Mas-ter;
reverence
make me un-der-stand your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Ho-ly One;
reverence
en - light-en me with your com-mand - ments. O Lord, your mer-cy is for-ev-er;
des - pise not the work of your hands. To you is due praise; to you
is due a hymn; to you is glo - ry due, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 
3. Grant this, O Lord.

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

Response: 
4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance,
let us beseech the Lord.

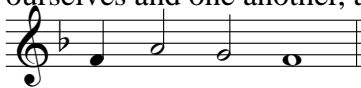
Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life,
and for a good account before the fearsome judgement seat of Christ,
let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

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

Response:



To you, O Lord.

Priest:

Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

If there is Litija, the hymns are found in the insert. The Litany of the Litija is found in the Appendix on page 26.

The Aposticha are found in the insert.

The Prayer of St. Simeon

Now you may dis-miss your serv - ant, O Lord,
in peace, ac - - - cord-ing to your word; for
my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all peo-ples:
a light for re - ve - la - tion to the Gen - tiles, and the glo - ry
of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and rests. Phrasing is indicated by slurs and breath marks. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The Trisagion Prayers

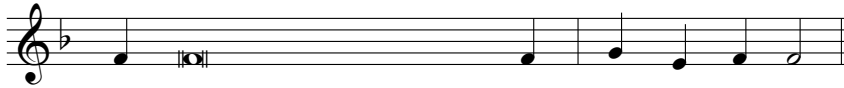
Three times:

Ho - ly God! Ho - ly and Might - y! Ho - ly and Im - mor - tal,
have mer - - cy on us.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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 mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

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.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:  A - - men.

The Troparia are found in the insert

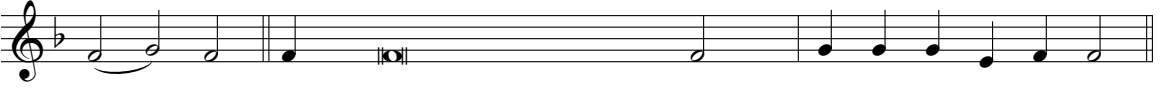
On feasts, after the Troparia, the Blessing of Bread takes place, followed by the singing of Psalm 33, which is found on page 29 in the Appendix

Paschal Dismissal

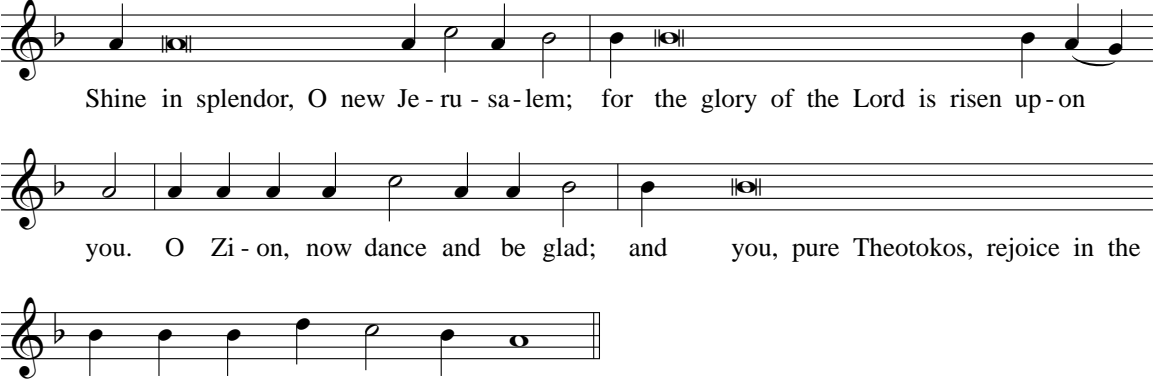
Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: 
Give the bles-sing.


Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for - ev - er and ev - er.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!


Response: 
Shine in splendor, O new Je - ru - sa - lem; for the glory of the Lord is risen up - on
you. O Zi - on, now dance and be glad; and you, pure Theotokos, rejoice in the
re - sur - rec - tion of your Son.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

Response: 
Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the tombs



he grant - ed life. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.



Give the bless - ing.

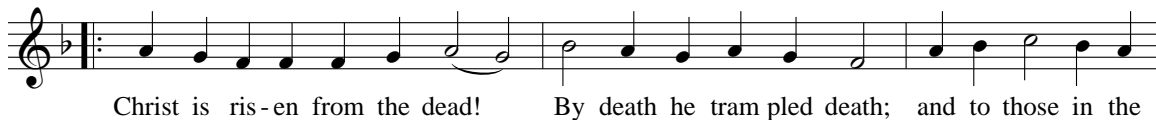
Priest: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, through the might of the precious & life-creating Cross, through the prayers of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy _____ (*patron of this Church*), and of the holy _____ (*commemorated this day*), and through the prayers of all the saints; for he is gracious and loves us all.

Response: 

A - - - - - men.

After the Dismissal, the celebrant says three times: "Christ is risen!" and the faithful respond each time: "Indeed he is risen!" The celebrant then sings once: "Christ is risen from the dead! By death . . .," and the faithful sing:

(Twice)



Christ is ris-en from the dead! By death he tram pled death; and to those in the



tombs he grant - ed life. And to us he grant-ed life e - ter - nal.



Let us bow be - fore his resur-rec - tion on the third day!