

Vespers for Home Use, on Saturday Evenings, When one is unable to attend Church, for a Cause Worthy of a Blessing

Opening Doxology

Reader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Amen. Glory to you, O God, glory to you!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One. *[During the 40 days after Holy Pascha, "O Heavenly King..." is replaced by the Paschal Troparion "Christ is risen..." said three times.]*

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

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

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your Name's sake.

Lord have mercy (3x)

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

People: 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.

Reader: Amen.
Lord have mercy (12x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

Come, let us worship God, our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Introductory Psalm (103/104)

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
you cover yourself with light as with a garment,
you have stretched out the heavens like a tent,
you have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.
You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken.
You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.
At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.
The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which you appointed for them.
You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,
 they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst.
 By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.
 From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
 the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate,
 that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man,
 oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.
 The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted.
 In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.
 The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.
 You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.
 You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
 The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.
 When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens.
 Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.
 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
 the earth is full of your creatures.
 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable,
 living things both small and great.
 There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to sport in it.
 These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.
 When you give to them, they gather it up;
 when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
 when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
 When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.
 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works,
 You look on the earth and it trembles, you touch the mountains and they smoke!
 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.
 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!
 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
 The sun knows its time for setting, you make darkness, and it is night.
 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
 Amen.
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to you, O God! (3x)

Reader: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

“Blessed is the Man...” (Kathisma 1 Stasis 1)

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
 Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
 Serve the LORD with fear, [and rejoice in him] with trembling,
 Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
 Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God!
 Deliverance belongs to the LORD; your blessing be upon your people!
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
 Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to you, O God! (3x)

Reader: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Evening Psalms (Psalms 141, 142, 130, and 117)

(NOTE: The appointed "Lord I Call" stikhera can be accessed at this link: <https://www.oca.org/liturgics/service-texts>)

"Lord I Call..."

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Reader:

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips;
incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds
in company with men who work iniquity, and I will not join their chosen ones.
Let a good man strike or rebuke me in mercy,

but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head.

For my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.
When they are given over to those who shall condemn them,
my words will be heard then,
as a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land,
so shall their bones be strewn near hell.

But my eyes are toward you, O Lord; Lord, in you I seek refuge.
Do not take away my soul; keep me from the trap they have laid for me,
and from the snares of evildoers.

Let the sinners together fall into their own nets, let me alone pass through.

I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

I pour out my complaint before Him; I proclaim my sadness before Him.

When my spirit departs from me, You know my way.

In the path where I walk they have laid a trap for me.

I look to the right and watch, but there is none who knows me;
no refuge remains for me; no man cares for my soul.

I cry to you, O Lord, I say: you are my hope, my portion in the land of the living.

Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!

V. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

V. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

V. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

V. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

V. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

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

Hymn of Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps

Choir or Reader: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father,
Heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ,
Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening,
We praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
For meet it is at all times to worship you with voices of praise,
O Son of God and Giver of Life: therefore all the world glorifies you.

Evening Prokeimenon

Reader: The evening prokeimenon in the 6th tone:

Tone 6: THE LORD IS KING! / HE IS ROBED IN MAJESTY!

Verses: **Vs.** The LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.
Vs. For He has established the world so sure that it shall never be moved;
Vs. Holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Reader: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Evening Prayer

Reader: Vouchsafe, 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 be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on you.
Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.
Blessed are you, O Master, make me to understand your commandments.
Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your precepts.
Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever, O despise not the works of your hands
To you belongs worship,
To you belongs praise,
To you belongs glory,
To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now...Amen.

Reader: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Aposticha

(The appointed Aposticha stikhera can be accessed at this link: <https://www.oca.org/liturgics/service-texts>)

Hymn of Simeon

Reader: Lord, now let 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 people.
A light to lighten the Gentiles
And the glory of your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now...Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your Name's sake.
Lord have mercy (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now...Amen.

People: 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.

Reader: Amen.

Troparia

(The appointed Troparia can be accessed at this link: <https://www.oca.org/liturgics/service-texts>)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos.
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb:
For you have borne the Savior of our souls.

A Prayer of Intercession (to replace the Litanies that have been omitted)

Reader: O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, in Your mercy and loving-kindness You regard the humble prayers of all who call upon You with their whole heart; incline Your ear and hear now our prayer, offered to You in humility:
Be mindful, O Lord, of Your Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church: Confirm and strengthen the Church, increase the Church, keep the Church in peace, and preserve the Church unconquerable forever.
Be mindful, O Lord, of our Metropolitan TIKHON, of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America and of every bishop of the Orthodox Church; be mindful, also, of the priests and deacons, and all the clergy of the Church, whom You have established to feed the flock with Your Word; and by their prayers have mercy upon us and save us, sinners.
Be mindful, O Lord, of all civil authorities, of our armed forces, of this region in which we live, and of every city and the countryside; grant them peaceful times, that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all Godliness and sanctity.
Be mindful, O Lord, of our parents, of our brothers and sisters, of our relatives, and of our friends; grant that they may have mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, pardon and remission of their sins; and that they may ever praise and glorify Your Holy Name.
Be mindful, O Lord, of those who travel by land, by sea, and by air; of the old and young, the sick, the suffering, the sorrowing, the afflicted, the captives, the needy and the poor; and upon them all send forth Your mercies, for You are the Giver of all good things.
Be mindful, O Lord, of those who have departed this life in the hope of resurrection to eternal life [*especially NAMES*]. Grant them, O Lord, everlasting rest in blessed repose and make their memory to be eternal.
Finally, be mindful, O Lord, of us, Your humble servants; grant us Your grace, that we may be diligent and faithful, avoiding evil company and influence, resisting temptation; that we may lead godly and righteous lives, blameless and peaceful, ever serving You; and that we may be accounted worthy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

Dismissal

Reader: Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

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

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

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

Reader:

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People:

Amen.

