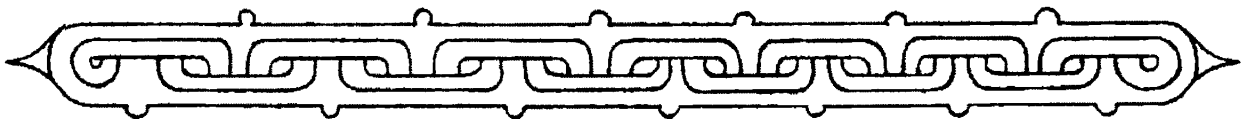


# READER'S VESPERS

served in the absence of a Priest

ON SATURDAY EVENINGS,  
AND ON THE EVE OF FEASTS

St John the Theologian Orthodox Mission,  
Gainesville, FL



**ST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
a mission parish of  
**THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

352-354-3708  
StJohnTheologianGainesville@gmail.com

2444 NE 1st Blvd, Unit 100, Gainesville, FL 32608

**Service schedule:**

*Saturday evening:*

6:00pm Vespers.

*Sunday morning:*

9:30am Hours

10:00am Divine Liturgy or Typika (Obednitsa) with Holy Communion

*Eve of Great Feasts:*

6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy. *Only when clergy are available. Check the website for the current calendar.*

*Location and Service Schedule accurate as of 1/23/2024  
See parish website for updates*



[gainesvilleorthodox.org](http://gainesvilleorthodox.org)

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JOHN



# READER'S VESPERS

## (Great Vespers)

### SERVED WITHOUT A PRIEST

*Great Vespers is served every Saturday evening and on any other evening when the Menaion or Pentecost-arion appoints Old or New Testament lessons at Vespers. It is also sung on the evenings of 14 Sep., 25 Dec., 6 Jan., Thomas Sunday, Holy Ascension, Holy Pentecost, and 6 Aug.*

*The Holy Doors are closed, and the curtain closed. A hand censer is prepared with a lit coal.*

*The Leader stands with the Choir, or stands in the center of the nave.*

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

**People:** Amen.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere and fill-est 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.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (thrice)  
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. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

# Reader's GREAT VESPERS

## Trisagion Prayer

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

**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.

**People:** 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!

Come, let us worship and fall down before him!

## PSALM 103

Reader:

**B**LESS THE LORD, my soul! O Lord my God, you have been greatly magnified. You have clothed yourself with thanksgiving and majesty, wrapping yourself in light as in a cloak, stretching out the heavens like a curtain, roofing his upper chambers with waters, placing clouds as his mount, walking on the wings of the wind, making spirits his Angels and a flame of fire his Ministers, establishing the earth on its sure base; it will not be moved to age on age. The deep, like a cloak, is its mantle; waters will stand upon the mountains. At your rebuke they will flee; they will quail at the voice of your thunder. The mountains will rise and the plains descend to the place which you established for them. You fixed a limit that they will not pass, nor will they return to cover the earth. You send out springs into the valleys; waters will run between the mountains. They will give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will await them to quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of the air will make their dwelling: and sing among the rocks. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth will be filled from the fruit of your works. He makes grass spring up for the cattle, and green herb for the service of mankind; to bring food out of the earth, and wine makes glad the human heart; to make the face cheerful with oil, and bread strengthens the human heart. The trees of the plain will be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon that you planted. There the sparrows will build their nests; the heron's dwelling is at their head. The high mountains are for the deer; rocks a refuge for hares. He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knew the hour of its setting. You appointed darkness, and it was night, in which all the beasts of the forest will prowl; young lions roaring to plunder and to seek their food from God. The sun rose and they were gathered together and they will lie down in their dens. Man will go out to his labour; and to his labouring until evening. How your works have been magnified, O Lord. With wisdom you have made them all, and the earth was filled with your creation. See, this great, wide sea; there there are creeping things without number, living creatures small and great. There ships go to and fro; this dragon which you fashioned to sport in it. All things look to you to give them their food in due

# Reader's GREAT VESPERS

## OPENING PSALM

season. When you give it them, they will gather it. When you open your hand all things will be filled with goodness. But when you turn away your face they will be troubled. You will take away their spirit, and they will perish and return to their dust. You will send forth your spirit, and they will be created, and you will renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure to the ages. The Lord will rejoice at his works. He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble. He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord while I live; I will praise my God while I exist. May my words be pleasing to him. While as for me, I shall rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners might perish from the earth, and the wicked, so that they are no more. Bless the Lord, my soul!

*And again*

The sun knew the hour of its setting: you made darkness, and it was night. How your works have been magnified, O Lord. With wisdom you have made them all!

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

Both now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (x3)

*In place of the Great Litany:*

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

**People:** Amen.

# GREAT VESPERS

## THE FIRST KATHISMA

### THE FIRST KATHISMA: BLESSED IS THE MAN<sup>1</sup>

*(Abbreviated)*

- Reader:** Blessed is the man who walks not in the council of the wicked.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in him with trembling.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be upon your people.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- People:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Reader:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God. *(thrice)*

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<sup>1</sup> This is chanted only on Saturday nights. On other occasions, we begin *Lord, I call upon you* directly after the Great Litany.



# GREAT VESPERS

## LORD, I CALL

*In place of the Little Litany:*

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

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

**People:** Amen.

*The singers begin Lord, I call in the tone of the week.*

*The Leader places incense on the lit coal in the hand censer. He or she censes the iconostasis, and then the nave, making the sign of the Cross with the censer once before each icon and once before each person. After censing the nave, the Leader censes the iconostasis one more time and then gives up the hand censer. The Altar is not censed.*

**L**ord, 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!

**L**et my prayer arise in your sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice! Hear me, O Lord!

*The reader then reads the verses of Psalms 140, 141, 129, and 116 until the beginning of the stichera. The stichera are inserted between the reader's verses according to the number appointed.*

### PSALM 140

**S**et a guard, O Lord, on my mouth, and a strong door about my lips. Do not incline my heart to evil words; to make excuses for my sins. With those who work iniquity, let me not unite with their elect. The just will chastise me with mercy and reprove me; but let not the oil of sinners anoint my head. For yet my prayer shall be in their pleasures; their judges have been swallowed up near the rock. They will hear my words for they are sweet. As a clod of earth is crushed upon the ground, their bones have been scattered at the mouth of Hell.

# GREAT VESPERS

LORD, I GALL

For my eyes look to you, O Lord, my Lord. I have hoped in you, do not take away my soul. Keep me from the snare that they have hidden for me, and from the traps of evil-doers. The sinners will fall into their own net. I am alone until I pass by.

## PSALM 141

**W**ith my voice I cried to the Lord. With my voice I entreated the Lord. I will pour out my entreaty before him, and tell him all my trouble. When my spirit was faint, you knew my path. In the way where I walked they had hidden a snare for me. I looked to my right hand and saw, but there was none who knew me. Escape is gone from me, and there is none who seeks for my soul. I cried to you, Lord, I said, 'You are my hope; my portion in the land of the living.' Give heed to my supplication, for I am brought very low. Deliver me from those who persecute me, for they are too strong for me.

10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess your name.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron<sup>2</sup>*

9. The just will await me, until you reward me.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

## Psalm 129

8. Out of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord. Lord hear my voice.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

7. Let your ears be attentive, to the voice of my supplication.

*The Choir sings the appointed sticheron*

6. If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who will stand? But there is forgiveness with you.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

5. For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

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<sup>2</sup> On a Saturday evening, the stichera begin here if ten are appointed for the service. If eight are appointed for the service, the stichera begin after 8. Out of the depths...

# GREAT VESPERS

LORD, I GALL

4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him plentiful redemption, and he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

*The Choir sings the appointed sticheron*

Psalm 116

2. Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him all you peoples.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

1. For his mercy has been mighty towards us, and the truth of the Lord endures to the ages.

*The People sing the appointed sticheron*

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

*The People sing the appointed Doxastikon.*

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The People sing the Dogmatic Theotokion in the tone of the week.*

*The Leader again places incense on the hand censer, and censes the iconostasis. He or she then remains standing in front of the iconostasis while turning and censing the people.*

*After the Dogmatic Theotokion, the People immediately sing the Hymn of Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps. ("Gladsome Light.")*

People:

**G**ladsome Light of the Holy Glory of the Immortal Father, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed: O 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.

*While Gladsome Light is sung, the Leader again censes the icon of Christ followed by the icon of the Theotokos, before giving up the censer and beginning the Prokeimenon.*

# GREAT VESPERS

## THE PROKEIMENON AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

### THE PROKEIMENON

- Leader:** The Lord is King: he is robed in majesty.<sup>3</sup>
- People:** The Lord is King: he is robed in majesty.
- Leader:** The Lord is robed with strength and has girt himself.
- People:** The Lord is King: he is robed in majesty.
- Leader:** For he has made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.
- People:** The Lord is King: he is robed in majesty.
- Leader:** Holiness becomes your house, O Lord, unto length of days.
- People:** The Lord is King: he is robed in majesty.
- Leader:** The Lord is King:
- People:** He is robed in majesty.

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<sup>3</sup> If it is not a Saturday, a different prokeimenon will be appointed.

# GREAT VESPERS

## The PROKEIMENON AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

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*For other days of the week, the Prokeimena<sup>4</sup> are as follows:*

### SUNDAY: Tone 8

Behold now, bless the Lord, / all you servants of the Lord. *(Ps. 133:1)*

**V.** You that stand in the house of the Lord, even in the courts of the house of our God. *(Ps. 133:2)*

### MONDAY: Tone 4

The Lord will hear me / when I call upon Him. *(Ps. 4:4b)*

**V.** When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me. *(Ps. 4:1a)*

### TUESDAY: Tone 1

Thy mercy, O Lord, / shall follow me all the days of my life. *(Ps. 22:7a)*

**V.** The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing: He maketh me to lie down in a green pasture. *(Ps. 22:1-2a)*

### WEDNESDAY: Tone 5

Save me, O God, by Thy Name, / and judge me by Thy strength. *(Ps. 53:1)*

**V.** Hear my prayer, O God: hearken unto the words of my mouth. *(Ps. 53: 2)*

### THURSDAY: Tone 6

My help comes from the Lord / Who made heaven and earth. *(Ps. 120:2)*

**V.** I lifted up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence will my help come? *(Ps. 120:1)*

### FRIDAY: Tone 7

Thou, O God, art my helper, / and Thy mercy shall go before me. *(Ps. 58:9b-10a)*

**V.** Rescue me from mine enemies, O God: and deliver me from them that rise up against me. *(Ps. 58:1)*

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<sup>4</sup> On certain occasions, a Great Prokeimenon replaces the daily Prokeimenon. The Rubrical Guide will provide instructions in such cases.

# GREAT VESPERS

## THE PROKEIMENON AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

*When appointed, lessons from the Old or New Testament are now read.*

### THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Reader:** The reading from \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Reader:** [reads the appointed passage].

*Note: In a Reader's service, there is no liturgical introduction or conclusion to any Scripture reading. The Reader simply says, "The reading is from \_\_\_\_ and then reads the appointed passage. There is no "Amen" at the end.*

*In place of the Augmented Litany:*

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (40x)

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

**People:** Amen.

**G**rant, Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

**B**lessed are you, Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen.

Let your mercy, Lord be upon us, as we have hoped in you.

Blessed are you, Lord: teach me your statutes.

Blessed are you, Master: make me understand your statutes.

Blessed are you, Holy One: enlighten me with your statutes.

Lord, your mercy is for ever; do not scorn the work of your hands.

To you praise is due, to you song is due, to you glory is due,

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

now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen.

# GREAT VESPERS

## ἈPOSTICHA

*In place of the Evening Litany:*

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

**People:** Amen.

## ἈPOSTICHA

**People:** [first sticheron]

**Reader:** The Lord is King: He is robed in majesty.<sup>5</sup> (Ps. 92:1a)

**People:** [second sticheron]

**Reader:** For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved. (Ps. 92:2)

**People:** [third sticheron]

**Reader:** Holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore! (Ps. 92:7b)

**People:** [fourth sticheron]

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**People:** [fifth sticheron]

**Reader:** Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**People:** [final sticheron]

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*If it is not a Saturday and if no other verses are appointed, the following verses are used:*

**V.** To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou Who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122:1-2)

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<sup>5</sup> If it is not a Saturday, other verses are used.

# GREAT VESPERS

ἁποστιχα

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)

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

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## ST. SYMEON'S PRAYER

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 peoples:  
A light to enlighten the Gentiles,  
And to be the glory of your people Israel.

**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 and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins, O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit 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 unto ages of ages. 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 debts, as we forgive our



# GREAT VESPERS

## Ἀποστιχα

debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

**People:** Amen.

*The People now sing the appointed troparia.*

## THE DISMISSAL

**People:** Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

**People:** More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

**People:** 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 (*thrice*).

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

**People:** Amen.