ENTRY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM
(PALM SUNDAY)
GREAT VESPERS
Served Saturday Evening

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.¹

Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.
O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present 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.

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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. (thrice) 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
[Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.²]
Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (Twelve times)
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

¹ If a priest is present, he says the opening exclamation Blessed is our God….
² If a priest is present, he says the exclamation For thine is the Kingdom….
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.

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art greatly magnified; thou art clothed with praise and majesty: covering thyself with light as with a garment, spreading out the heaven as a curtain; who covers his upper chambers with waters, who makes the clouds his chariot, who walks on the wings of the winds, who makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire; who established the earth on its sure foundation: it shall not be moved for ever and ever. The abyss, like a garment, is his cloak; the waters shall stand upon the mountains. At thy rebuke they shall flee; at the voice of thy thunder they shall be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down unto the place where thou hast founded them. Thou hast set a bound which they shall not pass, neither shall they return to cover the earth. Thou sendest forth springs in the valleys; the waters shall flow between the mountains. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field: the wild asses shall wait to quench their thirst. By them shall the birds of heaven dwell, they shall sing from amidst the rocks. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He makes grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth, and wine makes glad the heart of man; to make his face cheerful with oil, and bread strengthens man’s heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon which thou hast planted. There the sparrows will build their nests, and the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are for the deer, and the rock is a refuge for the hares. He made the moon for seasons: the sun knows its going down. Thou didst appoint darkness, and it was night; wherein all the beasts of the forest will prowl: young lions roaring for their prey to seek their food from God. The sun arose, and they were gathered together and shall lie down in their dens. Man shall go forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is filled with thy creation: so is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, living things, both small and great. There go the ships; there this dragon whom thou hast formed to play therein. All things wait upon thee to give them their food in due season. When thou givest to them, they will gather it; when thou openest thy hand, they shall all be filled with good. But when thou turnest away thy face, they shall be troubled: thou wilt take away their spirit, and they shall die and return to their dust. Thou shalt send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works; who looks on the earth and makes it to tremble; who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord while I live; I will sing praise to my God
while I have being. May my words be sweet unto him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

AND AGAIN:
The sun knows its going down. Thou didst appoint darkness, and it was night. How magnified are thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast thou 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 thee, O God. (thrice)

[Lord, have mercy. (Twelve times) Glory... now and ever...]

Read KATHISMA 1 (Ps. 1-8)

[Lord, have mercy. (Thrice) Glory... now and ever...]

PSALM 140

In the sixth tone:
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord.
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee.
Hear me, O Lord.
Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice! Hear me, O Lord!

The following verses are read, until the stichera begin:
Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth, and a strong door about my lips.
Incline not my heart to words of evil, to make excuses for sins;
With men that work iniquity, and I shall never join with their elect.
A righteous man shall chasten me with mercy and reprove me, but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
Since my prayer is even still for their good favor, their judges have been swallowed up near the rock.
They shall hear my words, for they were sweet: as a clod of earth has been crushed upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered near hell.
For mine eyes are toward thee, O Lord, Lord, I have hoped in thee; take not my soul away.

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3 If a priest is present, he says the GREAT LITANY.
4 If a priest is present, he says the SMALL LITANY.
Keep me from the snare which they have set for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.
The sinners shall fall into their own net: I am alone until I pass by.

**P S A L M 1 4 1**

I have cried to the Lord with my voice; with my voice have I made supplication to the Lord. I will pour out my supplication before him, I will declare before him my affliction.
When my spirit was failing me, still thou knowest my paths.
In this way wherein I was walking, they hid a snare for me.
I looked on my right hand and beheld, that there was none that recognized me.
Refuge failed me, and there is none that looks out for my soul.
I cried to thee, O Lord, and said: Thou art my hope, my portion art thou in the land of the living.
Attend to my supplication, for I am brought very low; deliver me from them that persecute me, for they have grown stronger than I.

**STICHERA OF THE TRIODION**

(10) **Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess thy name.**
Tone 6
The grace of the Holy Spirit today has assembled us. Taking up thy Cross we sing: “Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

(9) **The righteous shall await me, until thou shalt reward me.**
The grace of the Holy Spirit... (repeat the same as above)

(8) **Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.**
Today the Word of God the Father, the co-eternal Son, whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is earth, humbles himself and comes from Bethany, riding on a dumb beast, the foal of an ass. The children of the Hebrews hold branches in their hands. They praise him crying out: “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes, the King of Israel!”

(7) **Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**
Today the Word of God the Father ... (repeat the same as above)

(6) **If thou, Lord, wilt mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? * For with thee is forgiveness.**
O new Israel, church of the Gentiles, assemble today and sing with the Prophet Zechariah: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion! Shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King is coming to thee! He is meek, bearing salvation, riding on the colt of an ass.” Celebrate with the children, holding palms in thy hands: “Hosanna in the highest!/Blessed is he that comes, the King of Israel!”
(5) For thy Name’s sake have I waited for thee, O Lord: my soul has waited for thy word, * my soul has hoped in the Lord.
O new Israel, church of the Gentiles… (repeat the same as above)

(4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope in the Lord.
By Thy command, O loving Lord, thou didst raise Lazarus thy friend from death. His flesh had been given over to corruption, and he was in the power of death four days. By this, thou didst foretell thy holy Resurrection for us. Today, thou dost mount an untamed colt as thy chariot, foretelling the conversion of the Gentiles. Thy beloved Israel offers thee a hymn of praise from the mouths of innocent children, as they see thee enter the Holy City, O Christ, six days before the Feast of Passover.

(3) For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption, * and he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
By thy command, O loving Lord… (repeat the same as above)

(2) Praise the Lord, all ye nations: * praise him all ye peoples.
Six days before the Feast of Passover Jesus entered Bethany. His disciples asked him: “Where should we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover?” He answered: “When ye have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the master of the house: ‘The Teacher says to thee: here I shall eat the Passover with my disciples.’”

(1) For his mercy has prevailed over us, * and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.
Six days before the Feast of Passover… (repeat the same as above)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Tone 6
The grace of the Holy Spirit today has assembled us. Taking up thy Cross we sing: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
The grace of the Holy Spirit… (repeat the same as above)
The evening thanksgiving hymn

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 beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. For meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore, all the world doth glorify thee.

The prokeimenon in the sixth tone:

The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty. (Ps. 92)

Verse: The Lord is robed with strength and hath girt himself.

The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty.

Verse: For he hath made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.

The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty.

Verse: Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, unto length of days.

The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty.

The Lord is King: He is robed in majesty.

The reading from Genesis

( Gen. 49:1-2, 8-12)

Jacob called his sons, and said to them, “Assemble yourselves, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in the last days. Gather yourselves together, and hear me, sons of Jacob; hear Israel, hear your father. Juda, thy brethren have praised thee, and thy hands shall be on the back of thine enemies; thy father's sons shall do thee reverence. Juda is a lions' whelp: from the tender plant, my son, thou art gone up, having couched thou liest as a lion, and as a whelp; who shall stir him up? A ruler shall not fail from Juda, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of nations. Binding his foal to the vine, and the foal of his ass to the branch of it, he shall wash his robe in wine, and his garment in the blood of the grape. His eyes shall be more cheering than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.”
The reading from the Prophesy of Zephaniah

(Zeph. 3:14-19)

Thus saith the Lord: “Rejoice, O daughter of Sion; cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; be glad and delight thyself with all thine heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord has taken away thine iniquities, he has ransomed thee from the hand of thine enemies: the Lord, the King of Israel, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.” At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, “Be of good courage, Sion; let not thine hands be slack.” The Lord thy God is in thee; the Mighty One shall save thee: he shall bring joy upon thee, and shall refresh thee with his love; and he shall rejoice over thee with delight as in a day of feasting. And I will gather thine afflicted ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her? “Behold, I will work in thee for thy sake at that time,” saith the Lord: “and I will save her that was oppressed, and receive her that was rejected; and I will make them a praise, and honoured in all the earth.”

The reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah

(Zech. 9:9-15)

Thus saith the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion; proclaim aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King is coming to thee, just, and a Saviour; he is meek and riding on an ass, and a young foal. And he shall destroy the chariots out of Ephraim, and the horse out of Jerusalem, and the bow of war shall be utterly destroyed; and there shall be abundance and peace out of the nations; and he shall rule over the waters as far as the sea, and the rivers to the ends of the earth. And thou by the blood of thy covenant has sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit that has no water. Ye shall dwell in strongholds, ye prisoners of the congregation: and for one day of thy captivity I will recompense thee double. For I have bent thee, O Juda, for myself as a bow, I have filled Ephraim; and I will raise up thy children, O Sion, against the children of the Greeks, and I will handle thee as the sword of a warrior. And the Lord shall be over them, and his arrow shall go forth as lightning: and the Lord Almighty shall blow with the trumpet; and shall proceed with the tumult of his threatening. The Lord Almighty shall protect them.

[Lord, have mercy. (Forty times) Glory... now and ever...

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy Name forever. Amen.

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If a priest is present, he says the AUGMENTED LITANY.
Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master, make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of thy hands. To thee is due praise, to thee is due song, to thee is due 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. (Twelve times) Glory... now and ever...]

APOSTICHA

Tone 8
Rejoice and be glad, O City of Sion; exult and be joyful, O Church of God! Thy King is coming in righteousness. He rides on a colt, the foal of an ass. The children sing His praises: “Hosanna in the highest; blessed art thou, O greatly merciful One. Have mercy on us!”

Verse: Out of the mouths of babes and infants thou hast fashioned perfect praise.
Today the Savior comes to Jerusalem, fulfilling the Scriptures. He is greeted with palms and a carpet of clothes. All know it is he: the Lord, whom the Cherubim praise. Hosanna in the highest, blessed art thou, O greatly merciful One. Have mercy on us!

Verse: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth.
O gracious Lord, who ridest upon the Cherubim, and art praised by the Seraphim, now thou ridest like David on the foal of an ass. The children sing hymns worthy of God, while the priests and scribes blaspheme against thee. By riding an untamed colt, thou hast prefigured the salvation of the Gentiles, those wild beasts, who will be brought from unbelief to faith. Glory to thee, O merciful Christ, our King and the Lover of man!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Tone 6
The grace of the Holy Spirit today has assembled us. Taking up thy Cross we sing: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
The grace of the Holy Spirit… (repeat the same as above)

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6 If a priest is present, he says the Litany of Supplication and the Prayer of Inclination.
THE CANTICLE OF SAINT SIMEON

Lord, now letest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. (thrice) 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
[Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.] Amen.

Troparion of the Feast, Tone 1

By raising Lazarus from the dead before thy passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

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

Another troparion, Tone 4

When we were buried with thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by thy Resurrection. Now we praise thee and sing: “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!”
DISMISSAL

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

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.

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) O Lord, bless!

O thou who didst deign to sit upon the foal of an ass for our salvation, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

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If a priest is present, the dismissal is said according to the form established in Hieratikon (vol. 1).