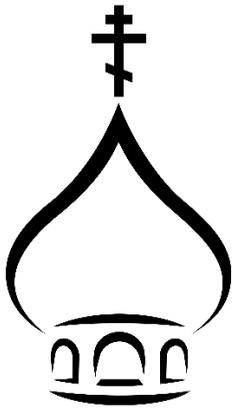


# Great Vespers

Saturday, July 4, 2020

**Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and  
Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**



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Very Reverend James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Mr. Bryan Distefano, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

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**Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:**

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

*(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)*

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# Great Vespers

Saturday, July 4, 2020

**Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra and  
Cœnobitic Monasticism on Mt. Athos, and his six disciples**

## Lord, I Call

(Tone 3) 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!

*(10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 3**      *(for the Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior, death's dominion has been shattered; the devil's delusion destroyed. The race of man, being saved by faith, always offers Thee a song.

*(9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord. Paradise has been opened again. All creation, praising Thee, always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son. I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit: the undivided, uncreated Godhead, the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

*(7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ, and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection, for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

*(6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 4**      *(for Ven. Sergius)*      *(Called from on high)*

When thy mother came to the Church of God even before thy birth, thou didst cry out in her womb three times, giving glory to the Trinity. O godly-wise Father Sergius, thou knewest God before thou knewest the world. Thou wast known by God, O blessed man. The light of His grace shone from thee to those who sought it. The radiance of thy face showed thy spiritual and bodily purity. Thou wast a chosen vessel of Christ our God. Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

*(5) For Thy name's sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

(Repeat: "When thy mother came to the Church...")

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

When the love of God descended on thee, O divinely-wise and most blessed Father Sergius, thou didst despise the world and love only Christ in thy soul. Following His life-bearing steps, thou didst reach the wilderness, and didst cultivate it with the seeds of thy labors, irrigating it with streams of tears, multiplying the fruits of good works. Having nourished thy children with these, thou didst bring them to Christ God. Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

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

(Repeat: "When the love of God descended on thee...")

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

O divinely wise Father Sergius, when thou didst hear a divine voice that said to thee: "Behold, the coming of the Most Pure One!" thou didst begin to make thyself worthy of this visitation, with many spiritual labors and fervent prayer. Light brighter than the sun illumined thee, showing to thy spiritual and bodily eyes the Mother of God. Thou didst hear her words to thee: "I shall not abandon this place, and thy monastery shall not be in want." Entreat her to save and enlighten our souls!

*(1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

When the time came for thy departure to God, as a brightly shining star thou didst enter the heavenly mansions, where thou standest with the choir of saints before the throne of the consubstantial Trinity. After thy body lay hidden in the earth for many years, it was revealed, manifesting wonders for those who venerate thy relics, O Sergius. Grant victories to Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; pray to Christ our God to grant the faithful remission of sins, and entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8**      *(for Ven. Sergius)*

Come, O faithful sons and daughters of the Russian Church, and let us rejoice in this solemn feast! Come, O priests and monastics, and behold the Church of God filled and adorned with the sound of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs! The venerable and glorious monastery of our Father Sergius rejoices, exulting in the uncovering of his relics. It calls the world to sing to God with gladness. O Christ and Master, thou hast granted the people of Russia a mighty warrior; an invincible weapon against enemies both seen and unseen, an unfailing treasure of gifts for the people of Christ! By his prayers, grant our souls great mercy!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 3**      *(Theotokion - Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother? For without receiving the touch of man, thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin. The Son born of the Father before eternity was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored Lady. He underwent no mingling, no change, no division, but preserved the fullness of each nature. Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother, to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee to be the Theotokos.

## **Aposticha**

### **Tone 3**      *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ, but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection. Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

*The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord, enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation. Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing: O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

*For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Thou art the changeless God, Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed. Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross. It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience. By descending to hell and rising on the third day, Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

*Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Thou didst endure death, O Christ, to deliver race of men from death. Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, raising with thyself those who knew Thee as God and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8**      *(for Ven. Sergius)*

We honor thee, O Sergius our father, as the instructor of a multitude of monks. We have indeed learned to walk rightly in thy footsteps. Blessed art thou, for having labored for Christ, thou didst denounce the power of the enemy. Thou wast a converser with the Angels and a companion of the venerable and righteous. Together with them, entreat the Lord that He grant mercy to our souls!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8**      *(Theotokion)*

O unwedded Virgin, who ineffably didst conceive God in the flesh, O Mother of God most high, accept the cries of thy servants, O blameless one! Grant cleansing of transgressions to all! Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

**Troparia**

**Tone 3**      **Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

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

**Tone 8**      **Troparion**      *(Ven. Sergius)*

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ into thy soul, O ven'erable one, and above all didst desire to leave behind the turmoil of the world. With courage thou didst settle in the wilderness, where thou didst raise children in obedience, the fruits of humility. Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, thou didst enlighten all who approached in faith, granting healing to all. O our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8      Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

For our sake Thou wast born of the Virgin and didst endure crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death. Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of Thy hand! Reveal Thy love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the Theotokos praying for us, and save the despairing people, O our Savior!

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Prayers at the Divine Liturgy for the Health of the Servants of God:**

**Igumen David Lewis**

**Archbishop David Mahaffey**

**Archpriests:** Thomas Edwards, John Perich, Rodion Pfeifer, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic

**Priests:** Matthew Joyner, Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

**Matushki:** Ashley Joyner, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

**Servants:** Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Jennifer Bzik, Helen Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, David Gowarty, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Pauline Kasick, Greg Konsevitch, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Olga Maksimova, Peter Marsh, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Mary Orzolek, Ryan Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Cate Shea, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, John Uzick, Irene Witaneck

**Child of God:** Emily Estrin

**Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.**