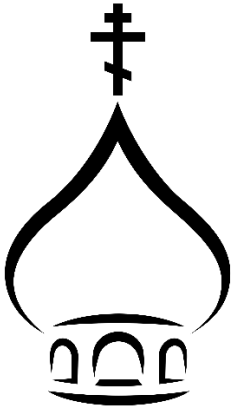


Sunday Vespers

Sunday, March 27, 2022



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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)

***Please turn off or silence your electronic devices
before entering the church. Thank you.***

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Sunday Vespers

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: 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 very great. Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, Who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, Who ridest on the wings of the wind, Who makest the winds Thy messengers, fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow be-tween 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 Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost 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. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest 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 Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy creatures. Yon-der is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season. When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou send-est forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renewest the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever, may the Lord rejoice in His works, Who looks on the earth and it trembles, Who touches 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.

And again:

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. 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*)

Great Litany

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

R. Lord, have mercy. (*after each petition*)

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. *R.*

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. *R.*

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For our Metropolitan *TIKHON*, for our Archbishop *MARK*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace. **R.**

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

R. To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.

And the choir begins

"Lord, I Call..." Tone 7

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!

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

Tone 7 *(Penitential stichera in the Tone of the week)*

Like the Prodigal I come and fall before You, O Lord: / accept me as one of Your hired servants, // and have mercy on me, O compassionate One!

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

Like the man who fell among thieves and was wounded, / I have fallen, and my soul is bruised by my many sins. / To whom can I, the guilty one, run, /if not to You, the only merciful Physician of our souls? // Pour out Your great mercy on me, O God!

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

O Savior, sinner that I am, / do not cut me down like the barren fig tree! / But grant me forgiveness all the year long, / watering my soul with tears of repentance, // that I may bring forth acts of mercy as fruit for You!

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

Since You are the Sun of righteousness, / enlighten and guide the hearts of those who cry out to You: // "O Lord, glory to You!"

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

Tone 8 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph)*

O Lord, You willingly stretched out Your hands on the Cross; / make us ready for its adoration with reverent hearts, / radiant through fasting, prayer, abstinence and works of charity; //for You are good and the Lover of man!

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

Blot out the multitude of my sins by the great abundance of Your mercies, / O most compassionate Lord! / Make me worthy to behold Your Cross, / and to embrace it with a pure soul in this week of abstinence, // for You are the Lover of man!

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

Tone 3 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (Oh, great wonder)*

Oh, great wonder! / I behold the Tree on which Christ was crucified in the flesh. / The world venerates it and, enlightened, cries out: / "How great is the power of the Cross! / When the demons behold it, they are burned. / By its sign, they are consumed with flames." / Therefore, O pure Tree, I bless you; / I honor and adore you with fear, // glorifying God, Who granted me unending life through you.

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

Tone 4 *(from the Menaion, for Ven. Hilarion)(Thou hast given a sign)*

O Father, you lived as an angel on earth in the flesh. / You acquired a life of chastity, / with patience, meekness and impartial love, / great abstinence,

watchfulness, divine compunction, / faith, true hope, and compassion, // O blessed Hilarion, intercessor for our souls.

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

O venerable one, / you were an earthly angel and heavenly man, / a fountain of compunction, a stream of compassion, a deep well of miracles. / You are surety for sinners, / an olive tree of God with the fruit of your labors fitting to anoint the head. // We praise you in faith, O wondrous Hilarion.

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

Your mind was illumined with the knowledge of God, / overcoming the passions of the flesh. / You did not participate in the things of this earth; / you bore the true imprint of divine goodness; / you were known to all to be like God / through cooperation with the Holy Spirit, // our Father Hilarion, the adornment of the monastic life.

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

Tone 4 (Theotokion)

With the showers of the all-holy Spirit, / bedew my thoughts, O all-pure one! / You gave birth to Christ, the Dewdrop, / Who by His compassion washes away the innumerable sins of mankind. / Dry up the spring of my passions, // and by your supplications grant me an abundant stream of the food of life!

*If it is Great Vespers (or an exceptional case), there is an entrance, and the deacon, standing before the open Holy Doors, exclaims **Wisdom. Let us attend!***

The choir proceeds immediately to;

O Gladsome Light

Choir: O Gladsome 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 Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life: therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee.

Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Deacon: Wisdom. The Great Prokeimenon in the 8th tone. "You have given an inheritance / to them that fear You, O Lord."

Choir: Repeats Prokeimenon in between each verse.

V. From the ends of the earth I call to You. (Ps. 60:2a)

V. I will take shelter under the shadow of Your wings. (Ps. 60:4b)

V. So I will ever sing praises to Your Name. (Ps. 60:8a)

Vouchsafe, O Lord

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, 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 commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Evening Litany

Deacon (or Priest):

Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

R. Lord, have mercy.

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

R. Grant this, O Lord. *(after each petition)*

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord. **R.**

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord. **R.**

All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord. **R.**

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord. **R.**

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask. **R.**

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

R. To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

R. And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

R. To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.

Aposticha

Tone 8 *Idiomelon (from the Lenten Triodion)*

Because of my evil deeds, / I, a wretched man, dare not gaze upon heaven with my eyes. / But sighing like the Publican, I cry to You: / "O God, forgive me a sinner, / and deliver me from the Pharisee's hypocrisy, // for You alone are compassionate!"

V. I lift up mine eyes to You, 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)

(Repeat: "Because of my evil deeds...")

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)

Tone 8 *(for the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord, / you sanctify every place and heal every ill. / Now therefore, intercede with Him, // that He may deliver our souls from every wile and snare of the Enemy!

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

Tone 8 *(Theotokion, from the Lenten Triodion)*

The Hosts of Heaven praise you, / unwedded Mother, full of grace. / We glorify your ineffable childbearing. // Therefore, O Theotokos, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

St. Symeon's Prayer

Lord, now lettest 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 to be the glory of Thy people, Israel.

Trisagion

Reader: 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*)

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 evil.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lenten Troparia

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace: the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb; for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. (*prostration*)

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

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; for to thee is given grace to intercede for us! (*prostration*)

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

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints, that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows; for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior! (*prostration*)

Beneath thy compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos. Do not despise our supplications in adversity, but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one!

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

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

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.

In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader. Amen. O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good, and the Lover of mankind.

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. (*prostration*)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to condemn my brother: for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

R. 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*). Father, bless.

The priest pronounces the appropriate Dismissal, *after which the choir responds:*

R. Amen.

THE END OF VESPERS

