



Sunday of Orthodoxy
VESPERS



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ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Foreword

*We venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One, begging forgiveness of our sins,
O Christ our God.*

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America presents this translation of the service of Great Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The impetus for this effort stemmed from the long-established local practice throughout the country of celebrating this Pan-Orthodox service for Sunday of Orthodoxy.

With this reality in mind, the AoB Liturgy Committee initiated a methodical study of the various translations historically used throughout the United States, synthesized them into a single translation, and made minor adjustments to the resulting translation in order to best reflect the meaning of the original Greek. The Assembly of Bishops, at its October 2024 meeting, approved the text of the service with minor revisions, and the AoB Executive Committee approved the service itself on February 6, 2025 .

The Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers Service is intended to be utilized for Pan-Orthodox celebrations of Great Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy. As of 2025, “Assembly of Bishops Sunday” is celebrated on Sunday of Orthodoxy, which marks a day to reflect on and support efforts toward Orthodox Christian Unity in the USA – both local and national – especially the ministries of the Assembly of Bishops.

Hierarch/Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship and bow down before our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Him, Christ our King and God.

Psalm 103 (104)

Hierarch/Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord our God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds his chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth. He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches. He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that He may bring forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, where the birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high hills are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers. He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down. You make darkness,

and it is night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar after their prey, and their food comes from God. When the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens. Man goes out to his work and 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 possessions—the great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; there is that Leviathan which You have made to play there. These all wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! The sun knows its going down. 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 forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3) Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Hierarch (*name*), for the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, for the honorable presbytery, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our nation, the President, for all in civic authority and our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Cantor/Choir: To You, O Lord.

Hierarch/Priest: For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

Psalm 140 (141)

Cantor/Choir: Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord.

The Deacon censes.

Cantor/Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Sticheron 1

Cantor/Choir: *Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your name, O Lord.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 2

Cantor/Choir: *The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward me.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 3

Cantor/Choir: *Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 4

Cantor/Choir: *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 5

Cantor/Choir: *If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness with You.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 6

Cantor/Choir: *Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in the Lord.*

Cantor/Choir: [Inserts]

Sticheron 7

Cantor/Choir: *From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 8

Cantor/Choir: *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 9

Cantor/Choir: *Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 10

Cantor/Choir: *For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Sticheron 11

Cantor/Choir: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

The Entrance

Deacon (quietly): Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest (quietly): In the evening, in the morning, and at midday, we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Master of all, loving Lord. Let our prayer be set forth before You as incense. Incline not our hearts to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us all from those who stalk our souls. For our eyes, O Lord, are toward You, and in You we hope. O our God, leave us not dishonored.

O Gladsome Light

Deacon: Wisdom. Arise.

All: O gladsome light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, the heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ! Having come to the setting of the sun and seen the evening light, we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is always worthy to sing a song of praise in splendid voices, O Son of God, the giver of life. Wherefore, the world sings of Your glory.

Deacon: The evening Prokeimenon!

Cantor/Choir: You have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name.

Cantor/Choir: *From the end of the earth I cried out to You.*

Cantor/Choir: You have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name.

Cantor/Choir: *And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge.*

Cantor/Choir: You have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name.

Cantor/Choir: *So I will sing praise to Your name unto ages of ages.*

Cantor/Choir: You have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Again, we pray for the pious and Orthodox Christians.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Again, we pray for our Hierarch (*name*) and for the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Again, we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the deacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Again, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians dwelling or visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, the men and women in philanthropy, and benefactors of this holy church.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Again, we pray for the blessed and ever to be remembered founders of this holy church, and for our fathers, mothers, and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, and who have been laid here to pious rest, as well as all Orthodox everywhere.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Deacon: Again, we pray for those who bear offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy (3).

Hierarch/Priest: For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

Hierarch/Reader: O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your commandments. Blessed are You, Master, grant me understanding of Your commandments. Blessed are You, Holy One, enlighten me with Your commandments. Lord, Your mercy is forever. Do not spurn the works of Your hands. To You is due praise, to You is due song, to You is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

The Litany of Completion

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Cantor/Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us ask the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remainder of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Cantor/Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Cantor/Choir: To You, O Lord.

Hierarch/Priest: For You are a good and loving God, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

Hierarch/Priest: Peace be with all.

Cantor/Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Cantor/Choir: To You, O Lord.

Hierarch/Priest (quietly): Lord our God, who inclined the heavens and descended for the salvation of humankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to You, the awesome yet compassionate Judge, not expecting human help, but awaiting Your mercy and anticipating Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening, and the coming night, from every enemy, from all demonic activity against them, from vain reflections, and from evil thoughts.

Hierarch/Priest: Blessed and glorified be the might of Your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

The Aposticha

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Cantor/Choir: *To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You Who dwell in heaven. Behold the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look to the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He takes pity upon us.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Cantor/Choir: *Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we are greatly filled with abasement. Greatly has our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon those who prosper, and abasement upon the proud.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Cantor/Choir: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Cantor/Choir: [Insert]

Procession of the Holy Icons

At this point, all the clergy process around the nave holding icons and assemble on the solea together with the Hierarchs. As they process around, the following Troparion is chanted/sung:

All: We venerate Your Pure Image, O Good One, begging forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God. Of Your own will, You condescended to ascend upon the Cross in the flesh and deliver those You created from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, thankfully, we cry out, “When You came to save the world, You filled all things with joy, O Our Savior.”

Once the clergy are assembled on the solea, the following prayers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy commence:

The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed

All: I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father through Whom all things were made.

Who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered and was buried; And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church: I confess one baptism for the remission of sins, I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.

The Synodikon

Hierarch/All:

As the Prophets beheld,
As the Apostles taught,
As the Church received,
As the Teachers dogmatized,
As the Universe agreed,
As Grace has shone forth,

As the Truth has been revealed,
As falsehood has been dispelled,
As Wisdom has been presented,
As Christ rewarded,
This we believe!
This we declare!
This we proclaim!
“Christ our true God
and we honor His saints,”
In words,
In writings,
In thought,
In sacrifices,
In churches,
In icons.

We worship Christ as God and Master while honoring His saints as true servants of the same Master. And, accordingly, we grant them veneration.

This is the faith of the Apostles.

This is the Faith of the Fathers.

This is the Faith of the Orthodox.

This is the Faith which has established the Universe.

Therefore, with brotherly and filial love,

we praise the champions of Orthodoxy - pious emperors, holy patriarchs, hierarchs, teachers, martyrs, and confessors - for the glory and honor of piety, for which they struggled, and we say and declare: eternal be their memory.

Cantor/Choir: Eternal be their memory. Eternal be their memory. May their memory be eternal.

Hierarch/Priest: Let us beseech God, that we may be instructed and strengthened by the trials and struggles for the faith, even to death, which these Saints endured as well as by their teachings, entreating them that we also, to the end, imitate their godly life. May we be deemed worthy of what we ask through the mercy and grace of the Great and First High Priest, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of our glorious

Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, of the godly Angels, and of all the Saints.

Choir: Amen.

The Great Prokeimenon

Deacon: The evening Prokeimenon!

Cantor/Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who works wonders.

Cantor/Choir: *You have declared Your strength among the peoples.*

Cantor/Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who works wonders.

Cantor/Choir: *And I said, "This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High."*

Cantor/Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who works wonders.

Cantor/Choir: *I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.*

Cantor/Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who works wonders.

The Prayer of St. Simeon

Hierarch/Priest: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples: a light to enlighten Gentiles, and glory for Your people Israel.

The Trisagion

Reader: Amen.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy (3).

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

All: 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.

Hierarch/Priest: For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

The Apolytikia

Cantor/Choir: Hail Mary full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.

Cantor/Choir: O Baptist of Christ, remember us all, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; grace has been given you to intercede for us.

Cantor/Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Cantor/Choir: O holy Apostles and all you Saints, intercede for us before the Savior, that we may be delivered from dangers and sorrows, for you are our fervent protectors.

Cantor/Choir: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Cantor/Choir: We take refuge in your compassion, O Theotokos, only pure and only blessed one. Reject not our supplications offered in adversity, but deliver us from all danger.

Reader: Lord, have mercy (12).

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

More honored than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, in purity you gave birth to God the Logos. Truly you are the Theotokos: you do we magnify.

Deacon: Wisdom, bless!

Hierarch/Priest: Blessed is He who is, Christ our true God, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

Hierarch/Priest: May the Lord God strengthen the holy and pure faith of devout Orthodox Christians, of His holy Church, this city and this Parish to the ages of ages.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim

Hierarch/Priest: O Lord and Master of my life! Keep from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness, lust of power and idle talk. (*Prostration*)

Hierarch/Priest: But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. (*Prostration*)

Hierarch/Priest: Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother; for You are blessed to ages of ages. Amen. (*Prostration*)

The Dismissal

Hierarch/Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God. Glory to You.

Deacon: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Lord have mercy (3). Master, Bless!

Hierarch/Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure and holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (local patron saint); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of (saint of the day), and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a good, loving, and merciful God.

Hierarch/Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Cantor/Choir: Amen.



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Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075
assemblyofbishops.org