



SOCIETY FOR EASTERN RITE ANGLICANISM

An Anglo-Orthodox

VESPERS

for experimental use

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www.easternanglicanism.org

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

or

Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

All (bowing with each): O come let us worship God our King. O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God. O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, confession and majesty hast Thou put on. Wondrous are Thy works, O Lord; in Wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

(bowing with each) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (x3)

Officiant: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith and reverence to receive the love of Christ and the everlasting peace of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For our Bishop, [N.], for Archbishop Justin, Metropolitan of Canterbury, for the venerable Priesthood and the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For the leaders of this country and all civil authorities; for all those who do the work of peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: That He will aid them and grant them victory in every adversity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For this town, and for every town and city, for this land and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: Calling to remembrance our most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People (bowing): To Thee, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Reader: Lord, I have cried unto Thee—hearken unto me, O Lord! Lord, I have cried unto Thee—attend to the voice of my supplication. Hearken unto me, O Lord! Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee, the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

Blessed is the one who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. Rather, let one delight in the Way of the Lord, and on His commandments continually meditate, both day and night. Indeed, that one shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in due season; the leaves of that tree shall not wither; and whatsoever that one doeth shall prosper. But the ungodly are like chaff, which the wind driveth away: they shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (*Psalm 1*)

Lord, have mercy. (x9)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

All: Bring my soul out of prison, O God, that I may truly confess Thy holy Name. Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; Lord, hearken unto my voice! Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee; my soul hath waited upon Thy Word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Officiant: Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

People: For his mercy is great toward us, and the Truth of the Lord endureth forever.

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

Officiant: O Mother of God, rejoice! O 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.

A brief time of contemplative silence is observed.

Officiant: In the evening, and in the morning, and at noonday we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks unto Thee; and we pray Thee, O Lord of All: receive our prayers as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of wickedness; but deliver us from all evil, vanity and selfish desire.

People: For unto Thee, O Lord, do we lift up our eyes, and in Thee alone have we trusted. Let us never be ashamed; for unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Officiant: Wisdom! Let us attend.

All: O joyous light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy blessed Father,—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 reverent voices, O Son of God and Giver of Life; wherefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

Officiant: Let us say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Mothers and Fathers, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy; we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Officiant: Again we pray for all pious and faithful Christians, and for those who do the work of peace in the world.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Officiant: For our Bishop, [N.], for the Archbishop Justin, Metropolitan of Canterbury, for the venerable Priesthood and the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Officiant: Again we pray for our ministers: the Priests, Deacons, and Monks; and for all our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Officiant: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy Temple; and for all our brothers and sisters, those in this life and those who have gone before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Officiant: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God, for all Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community and abroad.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Officiant: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable Temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

People: Amen.

Officiant: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Mothers and Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy holy Name forever.

People: Amen.

All: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.

(bowing with each) Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise; to Thee is due worship; to Thee glory is due: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Officiant: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Officiant: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the whole world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Officiant: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Officiant: Calling to remembrance our most pure, most holy, most glorious Lady the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

People (bowing): To Thee, O Lord.

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

People: Amen.

Officiant: Peace be unto all.

People: And to thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People (bowing): To Thee, O Lord.

Officiant: O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of humankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee who lovest humankind have Thy servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not comfort from the world, 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 adversity, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginings.

People: Amen.

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

People: Amen.

Officiant: Wisdom! Let us lay aside all earthly cares. Let us cleanse our senses, that we might behold God.

A time of silence and contemplative prayer is observed.

All: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy Word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Officiant: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto Thy humble servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietude; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Wisdom! Christ our God, the Ever Loving and Holy One, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Preserve, O God, the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, the Body of Christ, and all Christians, unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

All: O Most holy Mother of God, have mercy on us.

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

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my savior.

refrain

For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden, and from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

refrain

For the Mighty One hath done great things for me, and holy is His Name. His mercy is on those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

refrain

He hath shown the strength of His arm. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

refrain

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent away empty.

refrain

He hath come to the help of His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy: the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

refrain

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

People: Give the blessing.

Officiant: May Christ, our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, of the holy and glorious Apostles, of our [*father/mother*] among the Saints, [N.], and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the lover of humankind.

People: Amen.

All: Through the prayers of our most Holy Mothers and Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, help us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by Thy grace.

Officiant: May we go forth to love and serve the Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All (bowing): Amen.