THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST EVENING

Kneeling Vespers

Assembled by the kliros of St. Symeon Orthodox Church, Birmingham, Alabama, 2018
Note: this packet has been compiled for use by the readers and choir and therefore omits the specific texts of the Litany petitions and other clerical prayers unique to this service. The complete service book this packet was compiled from is "The Vespers of Pentecost" - OCA Department of Religious Education, New York, 1974, and is available from St. Vladimir's Seminary Press: https://www.svspress.com/vespers-of-pentecost-the/.
Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fill-est all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life:

*Reader: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

And the choir, with all reverence:

*In some traditions, this is said by the Priest.
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 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. (3)
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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. Lord, have mercy (12 times).
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
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(104)

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 Thy angels spirits, and Thy ministers a flame of fire. 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 between 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, fodder for the animals that serve man. 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. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and the 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 it 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 sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created and Thou renewest the face of the earth! 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 praises 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! 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. (3 times)

O Lord, our Hope, glory to Thee!
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.  

READER!
**Psalm 140**

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips! Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deed in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their dainties! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then they shall learn that the Word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol, but my eyes are toward Thee. O Lord God; in Thee I seek refuge; let me not be defenseless! Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evil doers! Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, while I escape.

**Psalm 141**

cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before Him, I tell my trouble before Him. When my spirit is faint, Thou knowest my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me. No refuge remains to me, no man cares for me. I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say, Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me.

10. Bring my soul out of prison, * that I may give thanks to Thy Name.  
9. The righteous await me, * for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.  
7. Let Thy ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.  
6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?* But there is forgiveness with Thee!
Today the nations have beheld wondrous things in the city of David when the Holy Spirit descended in fiery tongues as the Divine Luke records!
A sound as of mighty rushing wind filled the house where the Disciples of Christ were assembled!
They began uttering strange doctrines in strange words! /// Strange teachings of the Holy Trinity! {2X}

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!

CHOR: [Repeat “Today the nations...”]

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

The Holy Spirit was, is, and ever shall be; without beginning, without an end; forever united and numbered with the Father and the Son!
He is Life, and life-creating;
the Light, and the Giver of light;
Good in Himself, the Fountain of goodness;
through Whom the Father is known and the Son glorified;
All Knowledge, one Power, one Order! /// One worship of the Holy Trinity! {2X}

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

CHOR: [Repeat “The Holy Spirit was, is, and ever shall be;...”]
2. Praise the Lord, all nations! * Praise Him, all peoples!

The Holy Spirit is **Light** and Life,
the living Fountain of **spiritual** gifts:
The **Spirit of wisdom**, the **Spirit of understanding**!
He is good, upright, intelligent and **ruling**!
He purifies us from our sins!
The Spirit is the **deifying** God;
**Fire proceeding** from Fire,
speaking, **acting**, and **distributing** gifts!
By the Spirit the Prophets, the Divine Apostles and the **Martyrs** were crowned!
Strange is this report! **Strange** is this sight! ///
Fire is divided *for the granting* of gifts! \{2X\}

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

CHOIR: [Repeat “The Holy Spirit is **Light** and Life,…”]

Reader: [GNE in the 6th Tone] Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Note: see page 1 for music

O Heavenly King, / the Comforter, the **Spirit** of Truth / Who art everywhere and fill**est** 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!

Then, “**O Gladsome Light...**”
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 see the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voice.
O Gladsome Light Version #2

O Son of God and Giver of life:

Therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!
O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory of the Immortal

Fa ther, Heav en- ly, Ho- ly, Bless -ed Je- sus

Christ, now that we have come to the setting of the sun,

and be-hold the light of eve-ning, we praise God: Fa- ther, 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!

“O Gladsome Light” Version #3.
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 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!
The Great Prokeimenon

#1

Melody

Who is so great a God as our God?

Ison *

Who is so great a God as our God?

Opt. Tenor

Thou art the God Who work-est wonders!

* Low G for men's octave only.
The Great Prokeimenon

Russian Traditional

Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who does wonders,- Thou art the God Who does wonders. Our God, our God, our God is so great, Who does wonders!

The FIRST KNEELING PRAYER Sequence, next page!
Deacon (or Priest), with inflection:

Again and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord!

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3X - Litya Melody)

**The First Kneeling Prayer**

**CHOIR NOTE:** the Priest concludes the prayer, and then the Deacon (or the Priest, if there is no Deacon) exclaims (with no inflection):

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace!

**CHOIR (immediately):** Lord, have mercy. (1X - plain)

Deacon (or Priest): 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.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, 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.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*And then, The Augmented Litany* (music next page).*
The Augmented Litany

Kievan Chant (Minor)

1st:

Lord, have mercy.

2nd:

Lord, have mercy.

3 - the rest:

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

A-men.
**The Augmented Litany**

Pokrovsky (Protection) Monastery Chant

### First Two:

1. **Lord, have mercy.**

2. **mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**The SECOND KNEELING PRAYER Sequence, next page:**
Deacon (or Priest), with inflection:

Again and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord!

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3X - Litya Melody)

[Music]

The Second Kneeling Prayer

CHOIR NOTE: the Priest concludes the prayer, and then the Deacon (or the Priest, if there is no Deacon) again exclaims (with no inflection):

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace!

CHOIR (immediately): Lord, have mercy. (1X - plain)

Deacon (or Priest): 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.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: Through the favor and grace of Thine Only-Begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-Holy, and Good, and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

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, 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 commandments! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One,
enlighten me with Thy precepts! Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever, O despise not the work of Thy Hands! To Thee belongs worship, to Thee belongs praise, to Thee belongs glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon (or Priest), with inflection:
Again and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord!

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3X - Litya Melody)

The Third Kneeling Prayer

When the Priest concludes the Prayer, the Deacon (or Priest) exclaims for a final time (with no inflection):

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace!

CHOIR (immediately): Lord, have mercy. (1X - plain)

Deacon (or Priest): 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.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art the repose of our souls and bodies, and to 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

And then, The Litany of Vespers (music next page).
The Litany of Vespers

#1 - Carpathian Plain Chant (for music, see Appendix page 31)

#2 after Bakhmetev and Christov

Litany of Vespers Version #3

next page:
The Litany of Vespers

Lord, have mercy.

Grant this, O Lord.

To Thee, O Lord.

Amen. And to thy spirit. 
The Apostikha

Tone 3

Note: text pointed for Obikhod Stikhera Tone 3.

Now the tongues have become a sign to all!
For the Jews, Christ's ancestors in the flesh, were faithless, fallen from Divine Grace.
We of the Gentiles have been granted the Divine Light!
We have been strengthened by the Disciples' words proclaiming the glory of the God of All!
With them let us bend our hearts with our knees!
Let us worship the Holy Spirit in faith, being confirmed by the Savior of our souls!

Reader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and put a new and right spirit within me!

Now the Comforting Spirit has been poured out on all flesh, beginning with the choir of the Apostles!
He has spread His Grace, communicating It to all the faithful!
He gives proof of His mighty descent by distributing the fiery tongues to the Disciples for the praise and glory of God!
So now that our hearts have been spiritually enlightened; strengthened in faith by the Holy Spirit, let us pray that our souls may be saved!

Reader: Cast me not away from Thy presence, * and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me!

CHOIR, go!
Now the Apostles are clothed with the power of Christ from on high, for the Comforter renews them! He is renewed in them by a mystical newness of understanding! They preach to us in strange and exalted voices, teaching us to worship the eternal yet simple Nature; the Tri-Personal Nature of our Benefactor, the God of All! So being enlightened by their teaching, let us worship the Father with the Son and the Spirit, /// Praying that our souls may be saved!

*3* 2

Reader: [GNE in the 8th Tone] Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship the Tri-Personal Godhead! The Son in the Father with the Holy Spirit! The Father timelessly begets the co-reigning and co-eternal Son! The Holy Spirit was in the Father, glorified equally with the Son! One Power, One Substance, One Godhead!

In worshipping Him, let us all say:
Holy God: Who made all things through the Son, with the cooperation of the Spirit!
Holy Mighty: through Whom we know the Father, through Whom the Holy Spirit came into the world!
Holy Immortal: the Comforting Spirit, proceeding from the Father and resting in the Son! /// O HOLY TRINITY, GLORY TO THEE!

And immediately, “Lord, Now Lettest” (next page)!
#1 Obikhod Stikhera Tone 6

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 lighten the Gentiles, //
and the Glory of Thy people, Israel!

#2 Troparion Tone 6 - Russian “Greek” Chant, after B. Ledkovsky

Lord, now let-test Thou Thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy sal-va-tion, which Thou hast pre pared be-fore the face of all peo-ple, a Light to light en...the Gentiles,//
Reader: 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 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. (3)
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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from the evil one.

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.

CHOIR: Amen.

The Festal Troparion - Tone 8

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God,
Who hast revealed the fishermen as most-wise,
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit!
Through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net! ///
O Lover of man, glory to Thee!

Version #2 next page
Bless-ed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast re-vealed the fish-
er-men as most wise, by send-ing down up-on them the
Ho-ly Spir-it! Through them Thou didst draw the world in-to
Thy net!// O Lov-er of man, glo-ry to Thee!
The Great Dismissal (Plain Chant)

Priest: Wisdom!

CHOIR: Father bless!

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

CHOIR: Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

CHOIR: 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!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

CHOIR: 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 (3). Father bless!

And the Priest proclaims the Special Dismissal of the Day.
Appendix

The Litany of Vespers #1
Carpathian Plain Chant

Note: this version of the Litany of Vespers (or the Litany of Supplication) is also traditionally sung UNISON, with all voice parts singing the soprano line in their respective octaves.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Grant this, O Lord.

Grant this, O Lord. To Thee, O Lord. Amen.

And to thy spirit. To Thee, O Lord. Amen.
Bless-ed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast re-vealed the fish-er-
men as most wise by send-ing down up-on them the Ho-ly Spir-it.

Through them, Thou didst draw the world in-to Thy net. O Lov-er of

man, glo-ry to Thee!
Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fisher-
men as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit!
through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net!/
O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee!