The Office of Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil for Great and Holy Thursday

*The faithful STAND when the preparatory rites are completed and the clergy quietly say the prayers before commencing the Divine Liturgy. The holy doors remain closed until the Little Entrance.*

**Deacon:** Reverend Father, give the blessing.

**Celebrant:** Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**

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A - - - men.
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**Call to Worship**

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Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.
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**Psalm 103**

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Bless the Lord, O my soul! Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind;
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*Revised 04/12/2020*
you make your angels spirits
   and your ministers a flaming fire.

You founded the earth on its base,
   to stand firm from age to age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
   the waters stood higher than the mountains.

At your threat they took to flight;
   at the voice of your thunder they fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down
to the place which you had appointed.

You set limits they might not pass
   lest they return to cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
   they flow in between the hills.

They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
   the wild asses quench their thirst.

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
   from the branches they sing their song.

From your dwelling you water the hills;
   earth drinks its fill of your gift.

You make the grass grow for the cattle
   and the plants to serve man's needs,

that he may bring forth bread from the earth
   and wine to cheer man's heart;

oil, to make his face shine
   and bread to strengthen man's heart.
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,  
the cedars he planted on Lebanon;

there the birds build their nests;  
on the treetop the stork has her home.

The goats find a home on the mountains  
and rabbits hide in the rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time for its setting.

When you spread the darkness it is night  
and all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

The young lions roar for their prey  
and ask their food from God.

At the rising of the sun they steal away  
and go to rest in their dens.

Man goes out to his work,  
to labor till evening falls.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small.

The ships are moving there,  
and the monsters you made to play with.

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up;  
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last forever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!

He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,  
make music to my God while I live.

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord.

Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

And again:

You made the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time for its setting.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory to you, O God! (twice)
And the third time, with melody:

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Glory to you, O God!

Litany of Peace

The faithful may SIT as the Litany of Peace begins:

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

Response:

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

Response:

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)
Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop, (Name), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, [or: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Special petitions may be inserted here.

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)
Deacon:  Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:  

Celebrant:  Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response:  

The Lamp-lighting Psalms

The faithful STAND for the great incensation of the church. They may SIT when the great incensation is complete.

Psalm 140  - Tone 2 samohlasen

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; receive the voice of my pray'r when I call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r
ascend to you like incense and the lifting up of my hands like an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth and set a seal on the door of my lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil, nor make excuse for the sins I commit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting. If a just man strikes or reproves me it is kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head. Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock; then they understood that my words were kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground, so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned; in you I take refuge; spare my soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe; keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set while I pursue my way unharmed.

Psalm 141 With all my voice I cry to the Lord, with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
    I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints within me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
    On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to entrap me.

Look on my right and see:
    there is no one who takes my part.

I have no means of escape,
    not one who cares for my soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
    I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of the living."

Listen, then, to my cry
    for I am in the depths of distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
    for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
    and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
    because of your goodness to me.

Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
    Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
    to the voice of my pleading.

Then the hymns (stichera) of Great and Holy Thursday are sung.
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

The Sanhedrin of the Jews has tens to convene to deliver the Creator

and Maker of all to Pilate. O how lawless! O how faithless!

They prepare to judge the one who is coming to judge the living

and the dead. They arrange the passion of the one who heals the passions.

Long suffering Lord, great is your mercy: Glory to you!

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watch-man for day-break.

The faithful repeat, “The Sanhedrin of the Jews..”.
Let the watch-man count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.

The transgressor, Judas, dipped his hand in the dish during the supper with you, O Lord, and then lawlessly reached out his hand to accept the silver coins. He calculated the price of the myrrh, but did not flinch to sell you who are priceless. He extended his foot to be washed, but kissed the Master with treachery to betray him to the lawless ones. He was cast out of the company of the Apostles; he cast back the thirty pieces of silver. He never saw your resurrection on the third day, through which, have mercy on us.
Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,

Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Judas, the traitor, being treacherous, treacherously betrayed the Lord and

Savior with a kiss. He sold the Master of all to the lawless like a slave;

but like a sheep to the slaughter, willingly, went the Lamb of God,

the Son of the Father, the only all merciful One.

Praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim him all you peoples!

Judas, the apostle and apostate, servant and conspirator, friend and

devil, is betrayed by his deeds, for he followed the Master while plotting his
He said to himself: I will hand him over and gain the collected money. He tried to sell the myrrh and to have Jesus seized by deceit.

He gave a kiss and gave Christ away. But the only compassionate Lover of humanity went like a sheep to the slaughter.

Cantor:

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

All:

The Lamb whom Isaiah foretold comes willingly to the slaughter. He gives his back to be beaten and gives his cheeks to be slapped. He did not turn his face away from shameful spitting.

He is condemned to a shameful death, and though innocent, accepts all this willingly to grant resurrection from the dead to all.
The faithful STAND when the holy doors are opened and the cantor sings:

Cantor:

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

Doxastikon of Great and Holy Thursday - Tone 6 samohlasen

Truly Judas is a spawn of those vipers who grumbled against the one who gave them food, even as they ate the manna in the desert.

While the food was still in their mouths these ingrates blasphemed against God.

Like-wise, this ungodly one was arranging the Savior's betrayal with the bread of heaven still in his mouth. O implacable whim! O in-human boldness!

He sold the one who fed him and handed over to death the one he kissed.

Truly their outlaw son, he has inherited destruction along with them.
But deliver our souls from such inhumanity, O Lord, who alone are patient beyond compare.

The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "O Joyful Light" is sung.

The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.

O Joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father Immortal, the heavenly, holy, blessed One, O Jesus Christ: Now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to you, O Son of God, the Giver of Life. Therefore, the universe sings your glory.
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

**First Prokeimenon - Tone 1 (Ps. 139: 2-3)**

Rescue me, O Lord, rescue me from evil men.

From the violent keep me safe.

*Verse:* Who plan evil in their heart every day.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from Exodus.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

*The faithful SIT while the lector chants the reading.*

Lector: [Exodus 19:10-19]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Second Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Ps. 58: 2-3)**

Rescue me, God, from my foes; rescue me, God, from my foes; protect me, protect me from those who attack me.

*Verse:* Rescue me *from those who do evil*
Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Book of Job.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Job 38:1-22; 42:1-5]

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 50:4-11]

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response:

Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Response:

To you, O Lord.
Celebrant: For you are holy, our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever

Deacon: And forever.

Response: Amen.

The service continues with the Trisagion (“Holy God”) of the Divine Liturgy; music can be found on pp. 27-30 of the Divine Liturgies book.

Third Prokeimenon (before the Epistle) - Tone 7 (Ps. 2: 2, 1)

The rulers gathered together as one, against the Lord, against the Lord and his anointed.

Verse: Why this tumult among nations, among peoples this useless murmuring?

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Ps. 40: 2, 6, 10b)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: Happy the man who considers the poor and weak; * the Lord will save him on the evil day.
Verse: My foes are speaking evil against me; * how long before he dies and his name be forgotten?
Verse: My friend, who ate my bread, * has turned against me.
The following is sung in place of the Cherubic Hymn, both before and after the commemorations:

The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is celebrated.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”:

**Irmos of Great and Holy Thursday - Tone 6 Irmos variant (same as “Accept me today”)**

Lifting up our minds to the Upper Room, O faithful, let us enjoy the lordly hospitality and the eternal banquet. Having learned from the Word about the Word, we exalt him who has ascended.
For the Communion Hymn, “Accept me today...” (above). If desired, the hymns at the end of this leaflet may also be sung during Holy Communion.

After Holy Communion, “Accept me today...” is sung in place of “We have seen the true light...” and “May our lips be filled...”
A New Commandment

Siju zapovid' daju vam

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. A new commandment I give to you;
2. By this will all people know

1. Si - ju zapovid' da - ju vam,
2. O sem bo razum - i - jut' vs'i,

that you love each other,
that you are my disciples,

Da l'ubi - te dru - ha,
Čto vy l'ubi - te Me - ne,

even as I have loved you.
if you have love for each other.

Ja - ko i Ja voz - l'u - bil vas.
Aš - če l'u - bov pre - bu - det v vas.
1. I do believe and profess, O my Lord,
2. Let me partake of this banquet today,

1. Vi-ru-ju Hos-podi, i u-zna-ju,
2. Ty za pri-čast-ni-ka v chra-mi svja-tom,

You are the true Son of God,
Here where You dwell in this temple.

Čto Ty Syn Bo-ha ži-va-ho.
Prij-mi mja v taj-noj ve-če-ri,

Who did come down to relieve our distress,
For I will not have your Mystery profaned,

Prij-šol na zem-l'u, čtob du-šu mo-ju,
Taj-nu tvo-jim vo-ro-ham ne po-vim,

Bring-ing sal-va-tion to all.
Nor o- pen gates to your foes.

Špa-sti oť vsja-ko-ho zla-ho.
I ne o-tvor-ju jim dve-r'i.
Give Me Your Body, O Christ
T'ilo Christove

HOLY COMMUNION

1. Give me Your Body, O Christ, Savior and
   T'ilo Christove prij - mu, Spa - sa i

2. Salvation's cup I receive, Filled with Your
   Ča - šu spa - se - ňa prij - mu, T'i - la i

Sov-'reign, O Guest Divine. Come and rest in my
Bod - y and pur - est Blood. Lord, my poor cry now per -
Ho - spo - da mo - je - ho. V serd - ce smi - ren - ne voz' -
Kro - vi svja - to - ho Bo - že im - ja pri - zo -

soul, Christ, liv - ing God, now and for - ev - er.
ceive That I may share Your life di - vine.
mu, Vič - na - ho Bo - ha ži - va - ho.
vu, Da - tel' - a ži - zni bla - hoj.