
DIGITAL CHANT STAND
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

The Service of Vespers
on Saturday Evening
for Sunday, February 20, 2022

Octoechos - Mode 2
on Saturday Evening

Triodion - Sunday of the Prodigal Son
on Saturday Evening

Text in English

Links to Vesperal Prayers

Bilingual

dcs.goarch.org/goa/dcs/p/b/vespersordinary/vesperalprayers/gr-en/bk.vespersordinary.vesperalprayers.pdf

English

dcs.goarch.org/goa/dcs/p/b/vespersordinary/vesperalprayers/en/bk.vespersordinary.vesperalprayers.pdf

Sources

[AC] Anthony Cook. [GKD] George K. Duvall. [KW] Kallistos Ware. [RB] Richard Barrett. [SD] Fr. Seraphim Dedes. [TC] Thomas Carroll. [VPA] Virgil Peter Andronache. [GOA] Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. [HC] Holy Cross Orthodox Press. [OCA] Orthodox Church in America.

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GOA DCS Website

<https://dcs.goarch.org>

Email

dcsinfo@goarch.org

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Books - Sources

Octoechos - Mode 2.

On Saturday Evening

Triodion

Sunday of the Prodigal Son - On Saturday Evening

VESPERS

PRIEST

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,
and to the ages of ages.

(*Amen.*)

While the Introductory Psalm is being read, the Priest with head uncovered stands in front of the holy Altar, or before the icon of Christ the Savior, standing on the Solea (as at Matins) and inaudibly reads the Vespereal Prayers.

READER

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

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

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

It is appropriate for the congregation to stand for the reading of the Introductory Psalm.

Psalm 103 (104).

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly; You clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain; You are He who covers His upper chambers with water, who makes the clouds His means of approach, who walks on the wings of the winds, who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire. He

established the earth on its stable foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of ages. The deep like a garment is His covering; the waters shall stand upon the mountains; at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The mountains rise up, and the plains sink down to the place You founded for them. You set a boundary they shall not pass over; neither shall they return to cover the earth. You are He who sends springs into the valley; the waters shall pass between the mountains; they shall give drink to all the wild animals of the field; the wild asses shall quench their thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside them; they shall sing from the midst of the rocks. You are He who waters the mountains from His higher places; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are He who causes grass to grow for the cattle, and the green plant for the service of man, to bring forth bread from the earth; and wine gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit, the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted; there the sparrows shall make their nests; the house of the heron takes the lead among them. The high mountains are for the deer; the cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night, wherein all the wild animals of the forest will prowl about; the young lions roar and snatch their prey, and seek their food from God. The sun arises, and they are gathered

together; and they shall be put to bed in their dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your creation. There is this great and spacious sea: the creeping things are there without number; the living things are there, both small and great; there the ships pass through; there is this dragon You formed to play therein. All things wait upon You, that You may give them food in due season. When You give it to them, they shall gather it; when You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our Archbishop (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our country, the president, all those in public service, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the Great and Holy Church of Christ, for our Holy Archdiocese, for this city and parish, for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and distress, and from the peril of the coronavirus against us, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our brethren, those who lead the fight against the coronavirus, the doctors, the medical workers and the scientists, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating 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.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

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

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Mode 2.

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. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.

The righteous man shall correct me with mercy, and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant. As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone, until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope, my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Resurrectional Stichera. Mode 2.

From Octoechos - - -

Sticheron 1.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your name, O Lord. [SAAS]

Come, let us adore God the Word, begotten of the Father before all ages, who took flesh from the Virgin Mary. For he willingly suffered the cross and submitted himself to burial, and he rose from the dead and saved me, the one who has gone astray. [HC]

Sticheron 2.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward me. [SAAS]

Our Savior Christ blotted out the bond that pledged us to the decree by nailing it to the cross, and he abolished the dominion of death. Let us worship his third day resurrection. [HC]

Sticheron 3.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. [SAAS]

Together with the Archangels, let us praise the resurrection of Christ. He is the Deliverer and Savior of our souls. He will come again in awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world he fashioned. [HC]

Sticheron 4.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. [SAAS]

The angel proclaimed you Master, crucified and buried. And he said to the women: Come and see the place where the Lord lay. For he is risen as he foretold, for he is almighty. Therefore, we worship you who alone are immortal. Have mercy on us, O Christ, Giver of life. [HC]

Sticheron 5.

If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness with You. [SAAS]

You have abolished the curse of the tree by your cross, and by your burial you have done away with the dominion of death, while by your rising you have enlightened mankind. Therefore, we cry out to you: Glory to you, O Christ, our God and benefactor. [HC]

Sticheron 6.

Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in the Lord. [SAAS]

The gates of death opened before you in fear, O Lord, and the gatekeepers of Hades,

beholding you, were filled with awe. You destroyed the gates of brass and crushed the posts of iron. You led us out of the valley of the shadow of death and broke our chains. [HC]

Sticheron 7.

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. [SAAS]

Let us open our mouths and sing hymns of salvation. Come and bow down in the house of the Lord and say: Pardon our sins, you who hung upon the cross and rose from the dead, and yet are forever in the bosom of the Father.

[HC]

Stichera from the Triodion.

From Triodion - - -

Idiomelon 1. Mode 1.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions. [SAAS]

In a land that is sinless and living, You trusted me. I scattered my sins like seed, and when I put in the sickle, I harvested the fruits of my carelessness; and I bundled the sheaves of my actions, which I threshed not on the floor of repentance. So I entreat You, our pre-eternal God and husbandman, remove the chaff from my works with the wind of Your loving compassion, and as Landowner, provide forgiveness to my soul, and store me in Your heavenly granary, and save me. [SD]

Repeat.

Idiomelon 1. Mode 1.

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples. [SAAS]

In a land that is sinless and living, You trusted me. I scattered my sins like seed, and when I put in the sickle, I harvested the fruits of my carelessness; and I bundled the sheaves of my actions, which I threshed not on the floor of repentance. So I entreat You, our pre-eternal God and husbandman, remove the chaff from my works with the wind of Your loving compassion, and as Landowner, provide forgiveness to my soul, and store me in Your heavenly granary, and save me. [SD]

Idiomelon 2. Mode 1.

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [SAAS]

Brethren, let us learn the power of the mystery: When the Prodigal Son runs back from sin to the warmth of his Father's house, the all-loving Father, goes to meet him and kisses him, and he gives him back again the tokens of his own glory; and he sacrifices the fatted calf and thus celebrates the mystical joy with those in heaven. Let us understand this so that we might live lives worthy of the loving Father, who offered the sacrifice, and of the glorious sacrificial victim, who is the Savior of our souls. [SD]

Glory.

From Triodion - - -

Mode 2.

Oh! So many are the blessings that I deprived myself of, wretch that I am! What

a kingdom I fell from! Woe is miserable me!
I squandered the wealth that was given me.
I disobeyed the commandment. Alas, sorry
soul of mine! What remains is that You are
sentenced to the eternal fire. So, now, before it
is too late, cry out to Christ God, "Please wait
for me, as the Prodigal Son, and have mercy on
me, O God." [GOASD]

Both now. **Mode 2.**

From Octoechos - - -

The First Theotokion of the Mode.

At the coming of grace, the shadow of the
law passed away. Just as the bush that burned
was not consumed, so have you given birth and
remained a virgin. Instead of a pillar of fire,
the Sun of Righteousness shone forth; instead
of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls
appeared. [HC]

*It is appropriate for the congregation to stand for the
Entrance.*

DEACON *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Entrance Prayer

At nightfall, dawn and noon, we sing to You, we bless
You, we give thanks to You, and we beseech You, Master of
all, Lord and lover of mankind: guide our prayers aright as an
offering of incense before You. Let not our hearts be led to
wicked thoughts or words, but deliver us all from those who
pursue our souls. For it is on You, Lord, Lord, that our eyes
are fixed, and in You that we have our hope; do not put us to
shame, O our God.

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise.

CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Mode 2.

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy,
blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus
Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and
having seen the evening light, we praise the
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy
for You to be praised at all times with happy
voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; * and
therefore the world glorifies You. [SD]

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 2.

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with
majesty. [SAAS]

Verse: *The Lord clothed and girded
Himself with power.*

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with
majesty.

Verse: *And He established the world,
which shall not be moved.*

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with
majesty.

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray
You, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox
Christians.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for our Archbishop (name).

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

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 residing
and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the
members of the parish council, the stewards,
and benefactors of this holy church.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-
memorable founders of this holy church, and
for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen
asleep before us, who here have been piously
laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox
everywhere.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for those who bear fruit 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.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.)*

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves
mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

*It is appropriate for the congregation to stand for the
reading of prayer.*

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 despise 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. ^[HC]

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our evening prayer to the
Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

Commemorating 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.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, 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.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Lord our God, You inclined the heavens and descended for the salvation of humankind. Look on Your servants and Your inheritance. For they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to You the awesome yet compassionate Judge, not looking for human help but awaiting Your mercy and in expectation of Your redemption. Preserve them at all times and during this evening and the impending night, from every enemy, from all opposing demonic activity, from vain thoughts and evil dreams.

PRIEST

May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Resurrectional Aposticha.

From Octoechos - - -

Mode 2.

Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has illumined the entire earth, and has recalled your creation. O almighty Lord, glory to you. ^[HC]

Verse: *The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty; the Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.* [SAAS]

By the wood of the cross, O Savior, you abolished the curse of the tree, and by your burial you have destroyed the dominion of death, and have enlightened mankind by your resurrection. Therefore, we cry to you: Glory to you, O Christ our God, the Giver of life. [HC]

Verse: *And He established the world, which shall not be moved.* [SAAS]

When you appeared, O Christ, nailed upon the cross, you altered the beauty of created things. Cruelly the soldiers pierced your side with a lance; and the Jews asked that your tomb might be sealed, not understanding your power. But you, O Lord, because of your mercy submitted to the tomb and rose on the third day. Therefore, glory to you. [HC]

Verse: *Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, unto length of days.* [SAAS]

O Christ, Giver of life, for the sake of us mortals you willingly endured the passion and descended into Hades with power, snatching from the hands of the tyrant those who awaited you there, granting them, instead of Hades, an abode in paradise. Therefore, to us who give glory to your rising on the third day, grant pardon of our sins and your great mercy. [HC]

Glory.

From Triodion - - -

Mode pl. 2. Idiomelon.

I squandered the riches that my Father gave me. Then I ran with a herd of unintelligent brutes, pitiful wretch that I am.

Although I helped myself to their fodder, I could not get my fill, and I was starving. So now I am returning to my compassionate Father, and with tears in my eyes I am crying out, "Take me back as a hired hand, as I throw myself before your love for humanity, and save me." [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

From Octoechos - - -

Mode pl. 2.

Most holy Virgin, Christ the Lord, Creator and Redeemer, proceeded from your womb, and clothing himself in me, set me free from the ancient curse on Adam. Therefore, most pure Virgin, we praise you without ceasing as Mother of God and true Virgin with the greeting of the angel: Rejoice! Lady, advocate, defender, and salvation of our souls. [HC]

It is appropriate for the congregation to stand for the reading of prayers

PRIEST

Song of Simeon.

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

PEOPLE

Trisagion Prayers.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the 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 forever and to the ages of ages.

(*Amen.*)

CHOIR

From Octoechos - - -

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode 2.

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. ^[SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

From Octoechos - - -

Mode 2.

All surpassing every thought, all surpassing glorious, O Theotokos, are your mysteries. For while bearing the seal of purity and preserved in virginity, you were deemed a Mother in truth, for to the true God you gave birth. To Him pray fervently, entreating Him to save our souls. ^[SD]

PRIEST

Wisdom.

(*Father, bless!*)

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.
(*Amen.*)

HIERARCH or READER

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

(*Amen.*)

PRIEST

Glory to You, O Christ our God. Glory to You.

May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate 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 triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (**local patron saint**); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna,

and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and merciful and loves mankind.

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

(Amen.)