

# Vespers

## No Vigil

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### **1) Vesting**

- a) The deacon, holding the sticharion and the orarion approaches the priest and with his head bowed says: Master, bless the sticharion and orarion. The priest, blessing, says: Blessed is our God, The deacon: Amen, and then he he dons the sticharion; having kissed the orarion, he places it on his left shoulder.

### **2) Beginning**

- a) The priest stands in front of the royal doors; the deacon in the sanctuary on the right side behind the iconostasis.
- b) The priest intones “Blessed is the Kingdom” and remains at the doors until the “Glory” at the end of Psalm 103
- c) After the recitation of Psalm 103, the deacon departs via the northern door and, having shown reverence to the priest by making a small bow, he begins: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- d) After the priest's exclamation: For to You is due all glory, ... the deacon makes a small bow, returns to the Altar through the southern door and stands at the priest's right.
- e) When the Kathisma is finished, the deacon departs via the northern door and says the Small Synapte. Following of the priest's exclamation: For Yours is the might ... he makes a small bow and returns to the Altar.

### **3) *Incensations, Entrance, Prokimenon***

- a) When the choir begins to sing O Lord, I have cried to You, the deacon takes the thurible, presents it to the priest for blessing, and performs the general incensation.
- b) At the “Glory Be” after the last sticheria, the royal doors are opened. The deacon takes the thurible and receives the priest's blessing over it; preceded by candle bearers, the deacon and the priest, walk around the holy table starting from its right side, and then depart via the northern door.
- c) Coming to the Holy Doors, the deacon is in the center and behind him the priest. Both bow their heads, and after the deacon, holding the orarion with three fingers, has said: Let us pray to the Lord in a subdued voice, the priest, secretly says the Prayer of Entrance.
- d) After the Prayer of the Entrance, the deacon, pointing his orarion eastward, says to the priest: Master, bless the holy entrance.
- e) When the choir has finished the stichera, the deacon makes the sign of the Cross with the thurible or he raises the Holy Gospel exclaiming: Wisdom! Stand aright!
- f) While O Joyful Light ... is sung, the deacon and the priest enter the Altar and the deacon incenses as during “O Lord I have cried to you”.
- g) With the censuring done and the hymn finished, the deacon comes to the royal doors and looking toward the people, exclaims: Let us be attentive! The priest, facing the people, blesses: Peace be with all. The deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

- h) If there are readings, the deacon remains at the royal doors, and before the title of each lesson exclaims: "Wisdom!" to the people and after the title he also exclaims: Let us be attentive!

#### **4) *Litanies and the Aposticha***

- a) After the lessons, the deacon, having shown a reverence to the priest, walks around the Holy Table and departs via the northern door; coming before the royal doors, he says the ectene: "Let us all say",
- b) After "Lord keep us this evening", the deacon intones: "Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord" and takes the remainder of the petitions.
- c) After the priest blesses with "Peace be to all!" the deacon proclaims, "Bow your heads to the Lord". At the conclusion, the deacon returns through the south door.

#### **5) *The Ending***

- a) After the Aposticha, Trisagion Prayers and Troparia, the royal doors are opened and the deacon departs via the south door and stands by the icon of Christ. Looking towards the people with raised orarion, he proclaims, "Wisdom".
- b) After the final blessing, the doors are closed. Having made a small bow before the Holy Table, all unvest.

# Vespers

## With Litiya

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### *Adjustments for Great Vespers with Litiya*

#### **1) The Beginning**

- a) After vesting, the deacon, having departed via the northern door, stands before the royal doors with a lighted candle and exclaims: Command!
- b) He returns to the Altar via the southern door.
- c) The priest, preceded by the deacon bearing a candle, takes the thurible, over which he says the prayer of benediction, and censes the Holy Table from four sides, the apsidal icon and the other icons in the Altar, the Prothesis, the icons of the iconostasis, first the right and then the left side the choirs, and the people as prescribed.
- d) After this, they enter the Altar, the deacon through the southern door and the priest through the royal doors. They put aside the thurible and candle. The priest stands before the Holy Table and exclaims: Glory to the holy and life giving Trinity, One in Essence and undivided ...

#### **2) Litiya**

- a) Vespers continues as if no vigil until the Might of Your Kingdom be blessed – which occurs just before the Aposticha.
- b) The royal doors are opened and the priest goes through the royal doors. The deacon through the northern door. Then, preceded by the choir and

candle bearers, they proceed to the narthex or, where there is none, to the main doors of the church.

- c) The deacon, having received the incense blessing, censes the holy icons, if there are any, in the narthex, then the priest, the choir and those present. When the Stichera for the Litany are finished, the deacon, in a loud voice, says the petitions: O God, save Your people...
- d) At the end the priest exclaims: Hear us, O God ... and blesses the people: Peace be with all. The deacon exclaims: Let us bow our heads ... the priest, in a loud voice, says the prayer: Sovereign Lord Most Merciful...
- e) When the prayer is finished, all return into the church proper, to the tetrapod on which five loaves, wheat, wine, and oil are placed for blessing. The priest and deacon stand before it, the candle bearers to the right and the left, facing each other.
- f) While the Apolytikion is sung, the deacon, having received the blessing for the thurible, censes the tetrapod from four sides, then only the superior and the priest.
- g) After the deacon has exclaimed: Let us pray to the Lord and the priest performs the blessing
- h) After the prayer is completed, the choir sings: Blessed be the Name of the Lord ... and the priest and the deacon enter the Altar via the southern door, or the priest goes through the royal doors and the deacon via the southern door.
- i) Following this, the royal doors are opened (if they are not already open) and the priest blesses the people.
- j) Dismissal takes place with the deacon beginning: "Wisdom!", as was prescribed for the end of "Vespers without Vigil".