Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost

Choir:
O Heavenly King, O Comforter, O Spirit of Truth,
You are everywhere present, filling all things,
O 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.

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 behold the light of evening,
We praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
For meet it is at all times to worship You
With voices of praise, O Son of God
And Giver of Life!
Therefore all the world glorifies You.

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be unto all! Wisdom! The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone: Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who works wonders!

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who works wonders! You are the God who works wonders! The God, the God, the God who works wonders!

Priest: You have made Your power known among the peoples; with Your arm You have redeemed Your people.

Choir: (repeats prokeimenon)

Priest: And I said: Now have I made a beginning; this change has been wrought by the right hand of the Most High.

Choir: (repeats prokeimenon)

Priest: I remembered the works of the Lord; for I will remember Your wonders from the beginning.

Choir: (repeats prokeimenon)

First Kneeling Prayer

Priest: Again and again, let us, on bended knees, pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

(The clergy and faithful kneel.)

Priest: O pure and blameless Lord, Who are without beginning, invisible and incomprehensible, unsearchable, unchangeable, immeasurable, and unbounded, Who are without evil and alone immortal, who dwells in the unapproachable light, Maker of Heaven and earth and the seas and all that was created in it, Who grants to all their petitions before asking, to You we pray and of You we ask, O philanthropic Master, the Father of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the ever-virgin Mary, the noble Theotokos; Who first taught by word, and then gave testimony in deed while bearing the saving Passion, teaching us Your unworthy, sinful, and miserable servants, to offer You our supplications with bent heads and knees, for our sins and human ignorance.

Wherefore, O most merciful and philanthropic Lord, hear us on whatever day we call upon You, and especially on this day of Pentecost, whereon, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into Heaven and sat at Your right hand, O God and Father, He sent down the Holy Spirit to his Disciples, the holy Apostles, Who alighted on each of them and filled them all with His inexhaustible and divine grace; and they spoke in strange tongues, prophesying Your great deeds. Hear us who beseech You, and remember us, wretched and condemned. Deliver us from the sinful captivity of our souls by Your loving intercession. Accept us, who kneel down before You and cry out: we have sinned, and we have held on to You from our birth, even from our mother's womb. You are our God, but as our life passes in vanity, we have therefore been stripped of Your aid, and have been deprived of every defense. Yet do we trust in Your compassion and cry unto You: Do not remember the sins of our youth and ignorance; cleanse us of our secret sins. Do not reject us in our old age, and do not forsake us when our strength fails. Before we return to the earth, prepare us to return to You, and attend to us in favor and grace. Measure our transgressions according to Your compassion, and set the depth of Your compassions against the multitude of our offenses.

Look down from the height of Your holiness upon Your people who stand and await abundant mercy from You. Visit us with Your goodness and deliver us from the possession of Satan and preserve our life with Your holy and solemn laws. Commit Your people unto a faithful guardian angel. Gather us all unto Your kingdom. Grant

forgiveness to those who put their trust in You, relinquish us and them from sin. Purify us by the operation of Your Holy Spirit and remove from us the wiles of the adversary.

Blessed are You, O Lord, Almighty Master, Who has illumined the day with the light of the sun and the night with the glow of fire, Who has made us worthy to pass the course of the day and draw near to the onset of the night; hear our petitions and those of all Your people. Forgive us all our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, and accept our evening supplications. Send down the multitude of Your mercies and compassions upon Your inheritance. Encompass us with Your holy angels. Arm us with the weapons of Your justice. Envelop us with Your righteousness. Protect us by Your power, and deliver us from every oppression and from every conspiracy of the adversary. Grant us that this evening and the approaching night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without doubt and vain imaginings, by the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and all the saints who have done Your will from the beginning of time.

(The clergy and faithful may stand.)

Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; **raise us up**; and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Calling to remembrance 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours it is to show mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Second Kneeling Prayer

Priest: Again and again, let us, on bended knees, pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

(The clergy and faithful again kneel.)

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who has given Your peace to mankind and, being present still in this life, ever grants the gift of the All-holy Spirit to the faithful, as an inheritance that can never be taken away, You have sent down today in a manner most clear, this grace

upon Your holy Disciples and Apostles, and placed into their mouths and on their lips the tongues of fire. Through them all mankind, through the hearing of the ear, received knowledge of God in their own languages. We have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit, being emancipated from delusion as from darkness, and through the distribution of the perceptible tongues of fire and the wondrous action of the same, we have been taught the faith that is in You, and we have been illumined so as to praise You with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in one Godhead, Power and Authority.

Wherefore, O Splendor of the Father, the Likeness of his Essence, His immutable and unchangeable Nature, You are the fountain of salvation and grace. Open my lips, sinner that I am, and teach me how and for what I must pray; for You know the multitude of my sins, but Your unbounded compassion overcomes the enormity thereof. Behold, I come and stand before You in fear and dismay, casting my soul's despair into the depth of Your mercy. Govern my life, O You Who rules the whole creation with Your word and with the unutterable power of Your wisdom. O tranquil Haven of the storm-tossed, make known to me the way in which I should walk. Grant to my thoughts the spirit of Your wisdom, and bestow upon my ignorance the spirit of Your understanding. Overshadow my acts with the spirit of Your fear; renew a right spirit within me, and by Your Sovereign Spirit strengthen my unstable mind, that I may be worthy each day to do Your commandments, being guided by Your righteous Spirit into that which is profitable, ever mindful of Your glorified second Coming, which will search out our life's deeds. Let me not be led astray by the corrupting pleasures of this world, but strengthen me to delight in the treasures to come. For You, O Master, did say, "Whatever you ask in My Name you shall receive" from God the Father, co-eternal with You.

Therefore, I, a sinner, implore Your goodness at the descent of Your Holy Spirit: grant You my request for salvation. O good Lord, Who grants all riches and benevolence, You are He, the merciful and pitying, Who gives us more than we ask, Who has become a Partaker with us in the flesh without sin. You are He Who, for His love for mankind, has compassion for those who bend the knee to You, having become an offering for our sins. Grant, O Lord, Your compassion to Your people, and incline Your ear to us from Your Holy Heaven; sanctify us by the saving might of Your right hand. Cover us with the shelter of Your wings and turn not away from the work of Your hands. Against You only do we sin, yet You only do we

worship. We do not know how to bow to a strange god, nor to stretch forth our hands to a different god. Pardon our iniquities, O Master, and accepting our requests on bended knee, extend to us all a helping hand, and accept the prayers of all as fragrant incense acceptable to Your most righteous Kingdom.

O Lord, Lord, You Who has delivered us from every arrow that comes by day, save us from everything that walks in darkness, and accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Consider us worthy to pass the night blamelessly and experience no evil. Deliver us from Satan. Grant our souls contrition, and our thoughts concern over our accountability at Your just and terrible judgment. Nail our flesh to the fear of You, and mortify our earthly members, that in the tranquility of sleep we may be enlightened by the contemplation of Your precepts. Drive from us every unseemly fantasy and injurious desire. Raise us up at the time of prayer confirmed in the faith and progressing in Your commandments.

(The clergy and faithful stand.)

Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; **raise us up**; and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Calling to remembrance 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: Through the favor and grace of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Evening Prayer

Reader: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin
Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.
Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.
Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.
Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your commandments.
Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Your hands.
To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Again and again, let us, on bended knees, pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

(The clergy and faithful kneel.)

Priest: O Christ our God, the ever-flowing Spring, life-giving, illuminating, creative Power, co-eternal with the Father, Who has most excellently fulfilled the whole dispensation of the salvation of mankind, and did tear apart the indestructible bonds of death, break asunder the bolts of Hades, and tread down the multitude of evil spirits, offering Yourself as a blameless Sacrifice and offering us Your pure, spotless and sinless body, Who, by this fearsome, inscrutable divine service granted us life everlasting; O You Who descended into Hades, and demolished the eternal bars, revealing an ascent to those who were in the lower abode; Who with the lure of divine wisdom enticed the dragon, the head of subtle evil, and with Your boundless power bound him in abysmal hell, in inextinguishable fire, and extreme darkness.

O Wisdom of the Father, You great of Name Who manifests Yourself a great Helper to those who are in distress; a luminous Light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death; You are the Lord of everlasting glory, the beloved Son of the Most High Father, eternal Light from eternal Light, You Sun of justice! Hear us who beseech You, and give rest the souls of our parents, brethren, and the rest of our kinsmen in the flesh, and those who are of the fold of faith who have fallen asleep, and for whom we celebrate this memorial; for You have power over all, and in Your hands You hold all the boundaries of the earth.

O Almighty Master, God of our fathers, Lord of mercy and Creator of all the races of mankind, the mortals and the immortals, and of all nature, animate and inanimate, of life and of the end of life, of sojourning here and translation there, Who measures the years of life and set the times of death, Who brings down to Hades and raises up, binding in infirmity and releasing unto power, dispensing present things according to need and ordering those to come as is expedient, enlivening with the hope of Resurrection those that are smitten with the sting of death. Yourself, O Master of all, God our Savior, the

Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea, Who, on this last and great and saving day of Pentecost, did show forth to us the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial and co-eternal, undivided and unmingled, and poured out the descent and presence of Your holy and life-giving Spirit in the form of tongues of fire upon Your holy Apostles, appointing them to be the evangelists of our pious faith and showing them to be confessors and preachers of the true theology; Who also, on this all-perfect and saving feast, deigns to receive oblations and supplications for those bound in Hades, and grants unto us the great hope that rest and comfort will be sent down from You to the departed from the grief that binds them.

Hear us, Your humble and piteous ones who pray, and give rest to the souls of Your servants who have fallen asleep before us, in a place of brightness, a place of verdure, a place of repose, whence all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away; and place their souls in the houses of the righteous; and make them worthy of peace and repose. For the dead do not praise You, O Lord, neither do those in Hades dare to offer You confession, but we, the living, bless You and supplicate You and offer favorable prayers and sacrifices for their souls.

O great and eternal God, holy and loving toward mankind, Who makes us worthy to stand at this hour before Your unapproachable glory, praising and glorifying Your wonders: be gracious to us, Your unworthy servants, and grant us grace that from a humble and contrite heart we may offer You the thrice-holy glorification and gratitude for Your great gifts which You granted and still grant unto us. Remember, O Lord, our weakness and do not destroy us in our iniquities; but be merciful to our humility that, fleeing from the darkness of sin, we may walk in the day of righteousness and, clothed with the armor of light, may persevere unassailed from every attack of the evil one, so that with boldness we may glorify You in all things, the only true God and Lover of mankind.

For in truth, O Master and Creator of all, Yours is the great and original Mystery; the temporary death of Your creatures, and their restoration thereafter unto eternal repose. In all things we confess Your grace, at our entrance into this world and at our going out therefrom, O You Who by Your unfailing promises did hold out to us the hope of everlasting life, resurrection, and incorruptible life, which shall be ours hereafter at Your Second Coming. For You are the Author of our resurrection, the impartial Judge of those that have

lived, the Lover of mankind and the Master and Lord of recompense, Who did partake with us, on equal terms, of flesh and blood, through Your extreme condescension, and of our irreproachable passions, wherein You willingly submitted to temptation, since You possess tenderness and compassion, and Yourself, having suffered temptation, are become for us, who are tempted, the Helper which You Yourself had promised to be; and therefore You have led us to Your passionlessness.

Wherefore, O Master, accept our prayers and supplications, and grant repose to our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, relatives, and kindred, and all those who have gone to their final rest with the hope of resurrection and life everlasting. Set their names and souls in the Book of Life; in the bosoms of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; in the land of the living, the Kingdom of Heaven, in the paradise of delight, leading all into Your Holy dwelling place by Your radiant angels, and raise our bodies with You on the day that You have appointed, according to Your unfailing promise. There is no death, O Lord, to Your departing servants who cast off our bodies and come unto You, O God, but a transition from sorrowful things to things pleasant and sweet, to rest and joy. And though we have sinned against You, be compassionate unto them and us; for there is none without stain before You, even though his life be but a day, except You alone, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, through Whom we all trust to attain mercy and the remission of sins.

Therefore, O God, through Your grace and love of mankind, pardon, remit and forgive our sins and theirs, both voluntary and involuntary offenses, which we have committed either willfully or through ignorance, openly or in secret whether by word, deed, or thought and all our acts and movements. As for those who have preceded us, grant them emancipation and repose. To those of us who are here, bless us, and give us and all Your people a blessed and peaceful end to life. At Your fearsome and dreadful coming open to us Your fathomless love of mankind, making us worthy of Your Kingdom.

O great and most exalted God, Who alone has immortality and dwells in the unapproachable light, Who in wisdom brought into being all creation, Who has divided the light and the darkness, setting the sun to rule the day, and the moon and stars to rule the night, Who on this day did vouchsafe unto us sinners as worthy through confession to present ourselves before Your presence and to offer to You our evening praise: O philanthropic God, set our prayers like incense before You, and receive them as a sweet fragrance. Grant that this

evening and the approaching night may be peaceful and serene for us. Clothe us with the armor of light, and deliver us from nightly terrors and from everything that walks in darkness. Vouchsafe that the slumber which You grant us for rest from our weakness be also free from every satanic imagination. Yea, O Master, Bestower of all good things, may we, being moved to compunction upon our beds, call to remembrance Your Name in the night that, enlightened by meditation on Your commandments, we may rise up in joyfulness of soul to glorify Your goodness, offering up prayers and supplications unto Your tender love, for our sins and for those of all Your people, whom do You visit in mercy, through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos.

(The clergy and faithful stand.)

Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; **raise us up**; and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Calling to remembrance 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are the Repose of our souls and bodies, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Priest: + Peace be to all.
Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.
Choir: To You O Lord.

Priest (Prayer at the Bowing of Heads): O Lord our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race: Look upon Your servants and Your inheritance, for to You, the dread Judge Who loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting help not from men, but Your mercy, in expectation of Your salvation, whom You protect at all times, both during the present evening and in the approaching night, from every adverse action of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Priest Exclamation: Blessed and most-glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.

The Hymn of St. Symeon

Lord, now let 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 people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

Reader (chanted): Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the 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 Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

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

All: 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 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Second Deacon: Wisdom!
Choir: Father, bless.
Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith, and all Orthodox people.

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim ...

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to You.

Choir: Glory … now and ever … Lord, have mercy *(x3)*. Father, bless.

And the priest pronounces the dismissal.

May He Who emptied Himself from the divine bosom of the Father, and came down from Heaven to earth, and took upon Himself all of our nature, and deified it; and afterwards ascended again into Heaven and sat at the right hand of God the Father, and sent down upon His Holy Disciples and Apostles the Divine and Holy Spirit, one in essence, equal in power, equal in glory, and co-everlasting with Him, and through Him enlightened them, and through them the whole world, Christ our true God: through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable, God-proclaiming and Spirit-bearing apostles, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loves mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.