

## VESPERS FOR THE MONDAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (KNEELING VESPERS)

*After the initial Amen, all kneel and sing in Tone 6:*

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,\* who are everywhere present and fill all things,\* Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life,\* come, and dwell within us;\* cleanse us of all that defiles us,\* and O Good One, save our souls.

### AT PSALM 140

*In Tone 4*

6.

Today in the city of David,  
all the nations witnessed marvels,  
when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles  
in the form of fiery tongues.

As Luke reported under God's inspiration:

"While the disciples of Christ were all together,  
there came a sound from heaven as of a violent wind blowing,  
and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.  
And they began to speak in foreign tongues  
of some strange new beliefs and strange new teachings  
concerning the Holy Spirit."

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concerning the Holy Spirit."

4.

The Holy Spirit always was and always will be,  
for He is with the Father and the Son, One of the Trinity.  
He is both Life and Life-giving;  
He is Light, and by nature, the Giver of Light;  
He is All-Holy and the Source of Holiness.  
Through Him we know the Father  
and glorify the Son  
understanding that the Holy Trinity is a single Power,  
Three of equal rank and equally to be worshipped.

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Three of equal rank and equally to be worshipped.

2.

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life,  
a living fountain of all spiritual reality;  
He is the Essence of Wisdom, the Spirit of Knowledge;  
He is Goodness and Understanding, the Leader of Righteousness.  
He cleanses us from sin;  
He is divine and makes us so;  
He is Fire proceeding from Fire;  
His word is action and the distribution of gifts.  
Through Him God's witnesses, prophets and Apostles were crowned.  
Oh, the marvel of this truth! Oh, the marvel of this sight!  
Tongues of fire bringing about the distribution of gifts!

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*In Tone 6*

*Glory... Now...*

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,  
who are everywhere present and fill all things,  
Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life,  
come, and dwell within us;  
cleanse us of all that defiles us,  
and O Good One, save our souls.

## **GREAT PROKEIMENON**

*In Tone 7, special*

Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who doest wonders!  
verse: Among the people have You made Your power known!  
verse: And I said: now I have made a beginning: this change has been wrought by the  
right hand of the Most High.  
verse: I have remembered the works of the Lord, and called to mind Your wonders from  
of old.

## FIRST KNEELING PRAYER

Deacon: Again and again on bended knee let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, most pure, incorruptible, without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, unsearchable, unchangeable, unsurpassable, immeasurable, and forbearing: You alone have immortality; You live in unapproachable light; You made heaven and earth and the sea and all things created in them. You grant to all their requests even before they ask. We pray to You, and we beseech You, O Master who loves all mankind, the Father of our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For our sake and for the sake of our salvation, He came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and Mary, the ever-Virgin and the most glorious Godbearer. At first He taught us with words which were then later confirmed through deeds when He endured the saving passion, giving us, Your humble, sinful, and unworthy servants, the example of offering supplications to You, with necks bowed and on bended knees, for our sins and for the people's acts done in ignorance. Hear us on whatever day we call upon You, for You alone are most merciful and the Lover of Mankind! However, especially hear us on this present day of Pentecost on which, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into heaven and was seated at Your right hand, O God and Father, He sent down the Holy Spirit upon His holy disciples and apostles. The Holy Spirit came upon each of them, and filling all of them with His inexhaustible grace, they spoke of Your grandeur in various tongues, and they prophesied.

Now, therefore, hear us who are praying to You, and remember us, lowly and condemned as we are, and return our souls from the captivity of sin, for we have your loving-kindness interceding for us. Accept us who fall down before You, calling out: We have sinned! To You we have been committed from birth. From our mother's womb, You are our God! But because we have spent our days in vain endeavours, we have been stripped of your help, having been deprived of every defence. But trusting in Your generousities, we cry out: Do not remember the sins of our youth and of our ignorance, and cleanse us of our secret sins; and do not reject us when we become elderly, when our strength weakens.

Do not forsake us, and do not return us to the earth before You have made us worthy to return to You, and until You have prepared us, making us acceptable through grace. Appraise our iniquities by Your generousities. Against the multitude of our transgressions, place the abyss of Your generousities. O Lord, look down from the heights of your holiness upon our people here present who are waiting for abundant mercies from You. Visit us with Your goodness. Deliver us from the assaults of the Devil. Organize our life around Your holy and sacred commandments. Assign to Your people an angel, a faithful guardian. Gather all of us into Your kingdom. Grant forgiveness to those who put their trust in You; pardon them and us from sins. Purify us by the operation of Your Holy Spirit. Abolish the schemes of the Enemy plotted against us.

Blessed are You, O Lord, Almighty Master, who illuminates the day with the light of the sun and brightens the night with glowing flashes of light, and who has enabled us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near to the beginning of the night. Hear our petitions and those of all Your people; and having forgiven all of our voluntary and involuntary sins, accept our evening prayers, and send down the multitude of Your mercies and Your generousities upon Your inheritance. Encompass us with Your holy angels. Arm us with the armour of Your righteousness. Surround us with Your truth. Support us with Your power. Deliver us from every assault and from every treacherous plot laid by the Adversary.

And grant to us, through the prayers of the most holy Godbearer and of all the saints who have been well-pleasing to You from the beginning of time, that this present evening and the approaching night and all the days of our lives may be perfect, holy, peaceful, without sin, without temptation, and without idle dreams.

For it is You who shows mercy to us and saves us, O Lord our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

## LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

### SECOND KNEELING PRAYER

Deacon: Again and again on bended knee let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, You bestowed Your peace upon us and You granted us the gift of the Most Holy Spirit. And, while still yet being present with us in this life, You continue to bestow upon the faithful this inheritance that can never be taken away. On this day, in a vivid manner, You sent down this grace upon Your disciples and apostles, confirming their lips with fiery tongues so that, through them, we and the whole human race have received the knowledge of God through our own ears in our own language. We have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit and have been delivered from error, as though from darkness, by the distribution of visible and fiery tongues. Through this mysterious action, we have thereby been taught faith in You; and having been illuminated, we bless You, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as one Divinity and Power and Authority.

You are also the Splendour of the Father, the unchangeable and immutable Image of His essence and His nature, and the Source of wisdom and grace. Open my sinful lips and teach me the manner in which and for what needs I should pray. For You know the great multitude of my sins, but their enormity can be vanquished by your loving-kindness. For behold, I stand before You with fear, and I cast the despair of my soul into the depth of Your mercy. Guide my life along Your ways, for You govern all creation by a word with the ineffable power of Your wisdom; show me the way in which I should walk, O tranquil Haven of those who are turbulently perplexed. Grant the Spirit of Your wisdom to my deliberations, giving the Spirit of understanding to my ignorance. With the Spirit of Your fear, overshadow my deeds and renew a steadfast spirit deeply within me. And with Your Sovereign Spirit, stabilize the indecisiveness of my thoughts, in order that being guided every day by Your gracious Spirit toward those things that are profitable for me, I may be deemed worthy to fulfill Your commandments. Let me be constantly aware of Your coming in glory when You will judge our deeds. Protect me from the corrupting pleasures of this world; strengthen me with the desire to strive for the treasures of the world to come.

For You have said, O Master, that whatever anyone asks for in Your name, it will be received without hindrance from Your Father, the co-eternal God. Therefore, on this feast of the descent of Your Holy Spirit, I, a sinner, also entreat Your goodness so that You would grant me whatever I have asked that is for salvation. Indeed, O Lord, You are the bounteous Giver of all benefits; and You are a gracious provider who gives most abundantly those things for which we ask. You are the Compassionate One and the Merciful One who sinlessly became a partaker of our flesh; and unto those who bend their knees to You, who became the purifier of our sins, You extend your infinite loving-kindness.

O Lord, grant then Your generousities to Your people. Hear us from Your holy heaven. Sanctify us by the power of Your saving right hand. Cover us beneath the shelter of Your wings, and do not despise the works of Your hand. We have transgressed against You alone; against You only have we sinned, but only You do we worship. We do not know how to worship a strange god; neither do we stretch out our hands, O Master, to any other god. Pardon our transgressions and accept our prayers that we offer on bended knees. Extend the hand of Your help to all of us. Accept the prayer of all as if it were pleasant incense, acceptable before Your most gracious kingdom.

Lord, O Lord, who delivers us from every arrow that flies by day, deliver us from all things that walk in darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Deem us also worthy to pass blamelessly through the course of the night, untempted by evil things; and deliver us from every disturbance and apprehension that comes to us from the Devil. Grant compunction to our souls, and grant that we may meditate upon the trial at Your fearsome and righteous judgment. Nail the fear of You to our flesh, and

mortify all of our earthy body members so that during the quietness of sleep we may be enlightened with the vision of Your judgments. Remove from us also every unseemly dream and detrimental carnal passion. Then raise us up again at the time for prayer, fortified in the faith and advancing in your commandments.

Through the benevolence and the goodness of Your only- begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with your all-holy, gracious, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

## **“O LORD, KEEP US THIS EVENING”**

### **THIRD KEELING PRAYER**

Deacon: Again and again on bended knee let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O ever-flowing, living, and enlightening Source; O creative Power, co-eternal with the Father, who most marvellously fulfilled the entire plan concerning our salvation; O Christ our God, who shattered the indissoluble bonds of Death and the bolts of Hades: You trampled upon a multitude of the evil spirits, offering Yourself for us as a blameless Victim and giving Your most pure Body, untouched and unapproachable by any sin, as a sacrifice. And, through this awesome and inscrutable sacred sacrifice, You have given us eternal life.

For by descending into Hades and smashing the eternal gates, and having shown the way to heaven to those who were sitting in darkness, You ensnared the Prince of evil and the snake of the Abyss with divinely-wise enticements. And You bound him with the chains of gloom by Your immeasurable power, and You shackled him in Tartarus, the deepest infernal region of Hades, and through Your might confined him to the unquenchable fire and the eternal darkness. Thus, O greatly-eminent Wisdom of the Father, You manifested Yourself as the great Helper of the misfortunate, and You enlightened those who were sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

You, O Lord of everlasting glory and beloved Son of the most high Father; O everlasting Light of the everlasting Light; O Sun of righteousness: hear us who are praying to You and grant repose to the souls of Your servants, our ancestors, our brothers and sisters who have already departed; to all of our relatives; and to all true members of the Faith, for whom we now make a remembrance. For the authority of all things is with You; and in Your hand, You control all the ends of the earth.

O almighty Master, the God of our ancestors and the Lord of mercy; O Creator of the race of mortals and of the immortals, and of all human nature — that which is still presently structured in the body and that which is, likewise, already released therefrom; O Creator of life and of its termination, of that life of being transferred into another world: You measure out the years for the living, and You appoint the time of death. You lead people down into Hades, binding them in impotency, and afterwards You raise them up, releasing them in power. You order present necessities and expediently secure those needed for the future. To those who have been wounded by the sting of death, You make them glad with the hope of resurrection.

You indeed are the Master of all, O God our Saviour, the Hope of all those at the ends of the earth and of those far away at sea. On this last and great salvific day of the feast of Holy Pentecost, You showed us the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial and co-eternal, without division or confusion, and You also showed us the descent and arrival of Your holy and life-creating Spirit being poured out in the form of fiery tongues on Your holy apostles, appointing them to be the proclaimers of the Good News of our faith, and showing them to be confessors and preachers of the true, divine teaching.

Also, on this salvific feast on which everything was totally accomplished, You deigned, therefore, to accept supplications in behalf of those who are imprisoned in Hades; and to those being held in bondage, You promised great hopes for their release from the grievous bonds constraining them by sending down Your consolation.

Hear us, your humble servants, beseeching You, and grant repose to the souls of Your servants who have already departed into a place of light and a place of refreshment and peace from which all illness, sorrow, and sighing have been taken away. Commit their souls to the places of the just, and make them worthy of peace and of repose. For the dead cannot praise You, O Lord, nor do those in Hades venture to offer confession to You. But we, the living, bless You, and we pray and offer You supplications and sacrifices for their souls.

O great and eternal God, who is holy and loves all people; who has deigned us worthy at this hour to stand before Your unapproachable glory so that we might sing and praise Your wonders; cleanse us, Your unworthy servants, and grant us grace in order that with contrite hearts, we may without presumption offer to You the thrice-holy hymn of glorification and thanksgiving for Your great gifts that You have created for us and always produce for us.

Remember, O Lord, our weakness, and do not destroy us for our transgressions; but because of our humility, show us Your great mercy, in order that fleeing from the darkness of sinfulness, we may walk in the day of righteousness; and having been clothed with the armour of light, remaining unhindered by any spiteful intrigue of the Evil One, we may with confidence extol You in all things as the only true God who loves all. For Yours is indeed the great and veritable mystery, O Master and Author of all -the temporary dissolution of Your creatures, and, thereafter, their reintegration and repose for all ages. In all things, we acknowledge Your grace: for our entrance into this world and for our leaving it; likewise, for our hopes of resurrection unto an imperishable life, which You pledged by Your unailing promises, that we would receive in the future at Your Second Coming. You are the Beginning of our resurrection and the One who loves all people; the impartial Judge of all who have lived, and the Master and Lord of recompense.

You incorporated Yourself to us in the very same flesh and blood by Your extreme condescension for our sake. Because of Your compassionate generosity, You accepted our passions and through them, by voluntarily enduring temptation, You became for us who are tempted the Helper that You Yourself promised to become. Therefore, through this action, You have given us the example of controlling our passions.

Accept, then, O Master, our entreaties and supplications, and grant repose to all the fathers, mothers, children, brothers, and sisters of each of us; to our relatives; to all the people in our country; and to all those souls who have already departed in the hope of resurrection and of eternal life.

Inscribe their names in the Book of Life, committing their spirits to the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the land of the living, in the heavenly kingdom, in the paradise of delights. With Your radiant angels, guide all of them into Your holy dwelling place. Together with them, also raise up our bodies on the day that You have appointed according to Your holy and unailing vows. Therefore, O Lord, there is no death for Your servants when we depart from the body and return to You, our God, passing over from things that are most sorrowful unto things that are most wholesome and delightful, and into repose and joyfulness.

If we have in any least way sinned against You, be merciful to us and also to them, because there is no one who is pure from stain before You, even if his life be for but a single day: You atone, O Jesus Christ our Lord, while on earth manifested Yourself to be sinless. Through You, we all trust in obtaining mercy and the remission of sins.

For this reason, because You are a gracious and loving God, pardon, remit, and forgive both us and them for having fallen into sin, both voluntary and through human frailty; those committed wilfully or through ignorance; those that are evident and those that are unnoticed; those committed whether in deed, or through thought, or by word, or whether in any of our conversations and emotions.

To all those departed who have preceded us, grant freedom and pardon; and bless us who are still here present, granting to us and to all Your people a gracious and joyful end to our lives. Extend to us Your mercy and Your profound love at Your fearsome and dreadful coming in glory, making us worthy of your kingdom.

O great and most high God, You alone have immortality; You live in unapproachable light; You created all things in wisdom, dividing the light from the darkness and placing the sun to rule the day and the moon and the stars to rule the night. You have deemed us sinners worthy on this present day to come before Your sight in confession and to offer You our evening prayers. O Lord, who loves all people, let our prayer be directed like incense before You and accept it as a fragrant aroma. Grant that we may spend this present evening and the approaching night in peace. Clothe us with the armour of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from all things that walk in darkness. And grant that the sleep You have given to refresh us from our fatigue might be free from every evil.

Indeed, O Master of all and gracious Provider, may we be moved to compunction on our beds and remember Your most holy name throughout the night; and being illuminated by the contemplation of Your commandments, may we rise up with joyfulness of soul to glorify with praise Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to Your loving-kindness for our sins as well as for those of all Your people whom You, through the prayers of the most holy Godbearer, visit with mercy.

For You are the repose of our souls and bodies, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

All: Amen.

## LITANY OF PETITION

### APOSTICHA

*In Tone 3*

Truly the tongues have become a clear sign for all,  
for the people from whom Christ came in the flesh, were divided by lack of faith.  
They fell from the divine grace and divine light  
which we the gentiles have attained.

For we are strengthened by the words of the disciples,  
who proclaim the glory of God, the Benefactor of all,  
with whom we bend our hearts as well as our knees  
and worship the Holy Spirit in faith,  
being strengthened by the Saviour of our souls.

*A pure heart create for me, O God; put a steadfast spirit within me.*

The comforting Spirit has now been poured out on all flesh,  
for beginning with the rank of the apostles,  
He extended grace through the communion of believers.  
He confirmed the truth of His presence  
by the distribution of fiery tongues to the disciples  
for the praise and glory of God.

With the spiritual light that enlightens our hearts,  
and strengthened in the faith by the Holy Spirit,  
let us beseech Him to save our souls.

*Do not cast me away from Your presence, nor deprive me of Your Holy Spirit.*

The apostles of Christ have been clothed with power from on high;  
for the Comforter has renewed them,  
and in them renewed the knowledge of the new mysteries  
which they proclaimed to us in songs and resounding words,  
teaching us to worship the one God in three Persons,  
the all-bountiful and Eternal One.

Therefore, in the light of their teachings,  
let us worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
beseeching them to save our souls.

*In Tone 8, Glory... Now...*

Come, all you nations of the world,  
let us adore God in three holy Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One.  
From all eternity, the Father begets the Son,  
equal to Him in eternity and majesty,  
equal also to the Holy Spirit,  
glorified with the Son in the Father,  
three Persons, and yet a single power and essence and Godhead.  
In deep adoration, let us cry out to God:  
Holy is God who made all things through the Son  
with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit.  
Holy the Mighty One through whom the Father was revealed to us,  
and through whom the Holy Spirit came to the world!  
Holy the Immortal One, the Spirit, the Counsellor,  
who proceeds from the Father and reposes in the Son.  
All-holy Trinity, glory to You!

#### **TROPARION**

Blessed are You, O Christ our God who revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending  
the, the Holy Spirit; through them You caught the entire world. Loving Master, glory to  
You. (3)