

An Outline of Great and Daily Vespers as served at Holy Resurrection Church

Vespers, associated with sunset, is the first service of the day. Saturday evening Vespers, therefore, is the first service of Sunday - the Day of Resurrection. Saturday evening Vespers is always a Great Vespers service, and always has ten stichera, hymns, on "Lord, I Call." Most stichera on Saturday evening are from the Octoechos in the tone of the week (a new tone always beginning at this Vespers). Stichera for a particular feast or observance are included to fill out the ten. There is always an Entrance at Great Vespers, signifying an entrance into the Kingdom, in anticipation of the Divine Liturgy that will be served the following morning.

Daily Vespers is much simpler, with fewer stichera, no more than six. If a large enough feast is served on a weekday, Great Vespers is served rather than Daily Vespers.

As in most parishes, the Kathisma (longer segment of psalmody) are not chanted after the Great Litany. The Septuagint numbering of the Psalms is observed.

Great Vespers

- **Opening Blessing by Priest**
- **O Heavenly King and Trisagion Prayers**
- **Psalm 103**
- **The Great Litany**
- **Blessed is the Man** (Verses from Psalms 1-3)
- **Small Litany**
- **Lord, I Call. Psalms 140, 141, 129, 116**

Stichera are inserted into the final verses of the psalmody, on Saturday evening at least ten, on certain feasts eight are called for. The stichera are followed by a Theotokion, as the Entrance is made.

- **The Entrance**
- **O Gladsome Light**
- **The Peace and the Daily Prokiemenon**
- **(Old Testament Readings)***
- **Augmented Litany** (let us all say...)
- **Vouchsafe, O Lord**
- **Evening Litany** (Let us complete our evening prayer)
- **(Litya)****
- **Aposticha**
- **Song of Symeon**
- **Trisagion Prayers**
- **Dismissal Troparia**
- **(Blessing of bread, wheat, wine & oil)****
- **(Blessed by the name...)****
- **Dismissal**

* Appointed on certain feasts.

** Special prayers read in the narthex, the back of the church or on the porch. It is accompanied with the blessing and distribution of bread, (wheat), wine & olive oil.

Daily Vespers

- **Opening Blessing by Priest**
- **O Heavenly King and Trisagion Prayers**
- **Psalm 103**
- **The Great Litany**
- **Lord, I Call. Psalms 140, 141, 129, 116**

Stichera are inserted into the final six verses of the psalmody. The stichera are followed by a Theotokion. No Entrance.

- **O Gladsome Light**
- **The Prokiemenon**
- **Vouchsafe, O Lord**
- **Evening Litany** (Let us complete our evening prayer)
- **Aposticha**
- **Song of Symeon**
- **Trisagion Prayers**
- **Dismissal Troparia**
- **Augmented Litany** (let us all say...)
- **Dismissal**