SOUTHWARK
❖ CATHEDRAL ❖

VESPERS

At Southwark Cathedral

With the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge

Saturday 3rd August 2024
PRIEST

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

CHOIR

Amen.

While the Introductory Psalm is being read, the Priest stands in front of the holy Table and reads the so-called Lamp-lighting 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.

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 labour 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.


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

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.
THE PEACE LITANY

PRIEST

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR (after each petition)

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

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

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.

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

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

For the holy Orthodox patriarchs, for Archbishop Nikitas, Metropolitan Silouan, Bishop Matthew, Bishop Dositej, Archbishop Iosif, Metropolitan Symeon, for the reverent order of presbyters, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, the Royal Family, his Government, and all in authority under him, the armed forces, and those who serve in civil administration, let us pray to the Lord.

For this Institute, for our Benefactors, Directors, Members, Staff and Students, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Cambridge Theological Foundation, and for the Universities of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Dean, Canons, clergy, staff, and members of Southwark Cathedral, and for all who enter it to worship, pray, and visit, and for their health, safety and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
For this city, for every city, town, and village, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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.

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

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

Remembering our all-holy, immaculate, most 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.

**CHOIR**

To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST**

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

**CHOIR**

Amen.

**Mode pl. 1.**

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.

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

**Resurrectional Stichera. Mode pl. 1**
Sticheron 1.

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

By Your honourable crucifixion, O Christ, You humiliated the devil; and by Your resurrection You blunted the deadly sting of sin. And You rescued us through the gates of death. We glorify You, the Only-begotten Son.

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

Sticheron 2.

He who gave resurrection to the human race is the One who was led like a lamb to the slaughter. The rulers of Hades shrank from Him, and the dreadful gates were shaken and removed. Then Christ the King of glory entered, and He said to the prisoners who were in darkness, “Come out into the light and show yourselves.”

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

Sticheron 3.

Great is the marvel! The Creator of things unseen, as benevolent Lord, suffered in the flesh, and as immortal God, rose from the dead. Come, all people everywhere, let us worship Him. By His tender mercy disabused of delusion, we have learned that we ought to extol one God in three hypostases.

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

Sticheron 4.

We offer evening worship to You, the never-setting Light. In the fullness of time, You shined in the world, through Your flesh as through a lens. You descended to Hades, dispelling the darkness there. And You showed the light of the resurrection to all nations. O Lord, the Giver of light, glory to You!
For the Saints (Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus).

Mode 4.

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

Come, let us sing hymns to the memory of the seven honoured youths: the brilliant seven-branched lampstand! Let us cry out to Christ Who has crowned them: By their prayers, O Lord and Deliverer, bring peace to our life!

For His mercy rules over us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever

The seven godly youths died according to nature. Yet they rose up at once as though from sleep, in a manner transcending nature indeed for they had slept in the cave as dead for three hundred and seventy two years.

Glory. Both now. Mode pl. 1.

The First Theotokion of the Mode.

In the Red Sea long ago, there was a prefigurement of the ever-virgin Mary. There, it was Moses parting the water, and here, Gabriel took part in the wonder. Israel walked through the sea as on dry ground. The Virgin, without seed, gave birth to Christ. The sea remained impassable after the passing of Israel. The blameless Mother remained immaculate after conceiving Emmanuel. O God, the One who is and ever was and who appeared as man, have mercy on us.

ENTRANCE

Stand for the Entrance.

PRIEST (in a low voice)

Let us pray to the Lord.

ENTRANCE PRAYER

PRIEST (in a low voice)
In the evening, in the morning, and at midday, we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Master of all, benevolent Lord. Let our prayer be set forth before You as incense. Incline not our hearts to evil words or thoughts but deliver us all from those who pursue our souls. For our eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You, and in You we hope. Leave us not embarrassed, O our God.

PRIEST

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.

PRIEST

The evening Prokeimenon!

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 2.

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty.

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.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION
PRIEST

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR (after each petition)

Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST

Again we pray for the holy Orthodox patriarchs, for Archbishop Nikitas, Metropolitan Silouan, Bishop Matthew, Bishop Dositej, Archbishop Iosif, Metropolitan Symeon, for the revered order of presbyters, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Again we pray for our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, the Royal Family, his Government, and all in authority under him, the armed forces, and those who serve in civil administration.

Again we pray for this Institute, for our Benefactors, Directors, Members, Staff and Students, for the Cambridge Theological Foundation, and for the Universities of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin.

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

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.

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.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-
venerable church, for those who labour and those who sing, and for the
people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

PRIEST

For You are merciful and benevolent God, and to You we offer up glory, to
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of
ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

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.

(Amen.)

LITANY OF COMPLETION
PRIEST

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR (after each petition)

Grant this, O Lord.

PRIEST

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

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

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

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

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defence before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.
Remembering our all-holy, immaculate, most 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.

**CHOIR**

To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST**

For You are good and benevolent God, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR**

Amen.

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

**CHOIR**

And with your spirit.

**PRIEST**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**CHOIR**

To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST (in a low voice)**

Lord our God, who inclined the heavens and came down for the salvation of humankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to You, the fearsome yet compassionate Judge, not expecting human help, but awaiting Your mercy and anticipating Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and the
coming night, from every enemy, from all demonic activity against them, from unprofitable reflections, and from wicked thoughts.

PRIEST (aloud)

Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Resurrectional Aposticha.

Mode pl. 1.

O Christ our Savior, who became incarnate and yet did not depart from the heavens, we are singing hymns magnifying You. For You accepted crucifixion and death for the human race, O benevolent Lord. You stormed the gates of Hades, and You rose on the third day and saved our souls.

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

O Giver of life, when Your side was pierced, You poured out rivers of forgiveness, life, and salvation for everyone. You accepted to die in the flesh, and thus You granted us immortality. You were enclosed in a tomb, and thus You liberated us, and as God You resurrected us in glory along with You. Therefore we sing to You: O benevolent Lord, glory to You!

Glory. Both now. Theotokion.

All-venerable Virgin, you are the temple and the gate, the palace and the throne of the King. Through you did Christ the Lord, my redeemer, appear to those who lay asleep in darkness; for He, the Sun of Righteousness, wished to enlighten those whom He formed in His own image with His very own hand. O all-lauded Lady, since you have acquired maternal confidence towards Him, we implore you, intercede unceasingly, and entreat Him to save our souls.

Stand for the reading of prayers
PRIEST

Song of Simeon

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 peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

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 one.

PRIEST

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.
Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 1.

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Feast of the Transfiguration. Grave Mode.

You were transfigured upon the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we may be, shine Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of light. Glory to You.

Hymn to the Mother of God

Hail, mother of God and virgin, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast given birth to the Saviour of our souls."

Glory. Both now.

Theotokion. Mode pl. 1

Hail, gate of the Lord, through which no man has passed! * Wall and shelter of all who rely on you, rejoice! * Port and haven undisturbed by any tempest, rejoice! * You gave birth to your Creator and God in the flesh, * ever remaining a virgin. * Never cease interceding for us who worship and extol your Son.

PRIEST

Wisdom.
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 honourable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honourable, 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, of the Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus whom we commemorate today, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as He is good, benevolent, and merciful God.

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

CHOIR

Amen.