

SUNDAY ORTHODOX VESPERS

Sunday 23 June 2024

'Let us hold on unswervingly to the *hope*
we profess, for he who promised is faithful.'

HEBREWS 10:23



National Council of
Churches in Australia

(Please be upstanding)

Invocation (ALL)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. One Holy God. Amen.

Introductory Rite

(All) Opening Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

(Welcome to pray in any language and/or in your heart)

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.

For yours is the Kingdom, Power and Glory.

Now and Forevermore.

Amen.

LR: Prayer

Lord, as we gather in your Holy and Divine presence this evening, we come before you with humble hearts. We ask that you fill our spirits with your boundless grace and love.

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in the Orthodox calendar, let us be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to do the Lord's work, empowered with His wisdom, courage, and compassion.

May your presence be felt deeply within us, guiding our thoughts, words, and actions. Grant us the strength to face challenges with courage, the wisdom to discern your will, and the compassion to extend your grace to others. As we journey through this evening, may we be ever mindful of your presence and ever grateful for your endless blessings. Amen.

(All) Proclamation: Unto You, Lord of All

Unto you, Lord of all, we confess,

and you, Jesus Christ, we glorify,

for you give life to our bodies

and you are the Saviour of our souls.

LR: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

All Respond: From everlasting and forever and ever, Amen.

LR: Prayer

Truly, my Lord, you give life to our bodies; you are the good Savior of our souls and you continually guard our life.

You, my Lord, we are bound to confess, worship, and glorify at every hour, O Lord of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for ever.

All respond: Amen

Deacon: Nsal-leh Shla-ma Um-man (*Aramaic*)

(Let us pray, peace be with us.)

Penitential Rite:

All Proclaim Kyrie Eleison x 3

LR: Deacon: Lift up your voice, all ye people, and glorify the living God.

ALL:

Holy God,
Holy Mighty,
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

LR: (Chant) in Greek

Greek	English Translation
Πεντηκοστήν ἐορτάζομεν, καὶ Πνεύματος ἐπιδημίαν, καὶ προθεσμίαν ἐπαγγελίας, καὶ ἐλπίδος συμπλήρωσιν· καὶ τὸ μυστήριον ὅσον, ὡς μέγα τε καὶ σεβάσιμον! Διὸ βοῶμέν σοι· Δημιουργέ τοῦ παντός Κύριε, δόξα σοι.	We are celebrating Pentecost, and the coming of the Spirit: the appointed time of the promise, and the fulfillment of our hope. How great is the mystery? Great indeed and venerable! Therefore we cry to You, O Creator of all: Glory to You, O Lord!
Εἶδομεν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ἐλάβομεν Πνεῦμα ἐπουράνιον, εὕρομεν Πίστιν ἀληθῆ, ἀδιαίρετον Τριάδα προσκυνοῦντες· αὕτη γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἔσωσε.	We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true Faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity; for this has saved us.
Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.	Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You sent down the Holy Spirit into the fishermen, and You gave them knowledge and wisdom in everything; and through them, as in a net You caught the whole world. O Lord who loves humanity, glory to You!

LR: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

All:

Holy God,
Holy Mighty,
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

All: From everlasting and forever and ever, Amen

Holy God,
Holy mighty,
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

LR: Prayer

You who are holy, glorious, mighty, and immortal, who dwell in the saints and whose will has been satisfied, turn, my Lord, and pity and have mercy upon us, as you are accustomed to do at every hour, O Lord of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for ever

All respond: Amen

(Deacon) Aramaic: Nsaleh Shla-ma Um-man
(Let us pray, peace be with us.)

1st Psalm – (Psalms 97: 7, 8,1)

LR: Recite

Worship Him, all you His angels. Zion heard and rejoiced. The Lord reigns, let the earth exalt, let many islands rejoice. Alleluia.

Prayer before Lection Reading

LR: Let us bow our heads in prayer, O Lord, and offer our hearts before your holy presence.

LR: Prayer

O you who enlighten the rational with the knowledge of your greatness, enlighten, our thoughts that we may meditate upon your holy and divine Scriptures at every hour, Lord of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for ever.

(Please be seated)

Lection Reading

LR: *Reading from the book of Acts Chapter 2, Verse 1 – 21 (NKJV)*

Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all ^[a]with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them ^[b]divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Crowd's Response

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own ^[c]language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and ^[d]Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Peter's Sermon

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* ^[e]the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above

And signs in the earth beneath:

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness,

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

²¹ And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be saved.'

All: Amen

LR: *This is the Word of our Lord*

All Respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

(Please be upstanding)

2nd Psalm (Psalms 115: 12-13)

LR: Recite

The Lord has remembered us, and blessed us; He has blessed the house of Israel, He has blessed the house of Aaron. He has blessed them that fear the Lord, both small and great.

INTERCESSIONS (optional to sit or kneel during this prayer)**The Litany** Lead Reader:

Kneeling Prayer (optional to sit or kneel during this prayer)

In Arabic, with English translation (Coptic Orthodox Pentecost Vespers)

O Lord, who is without blemish, the undefiled, the Eternal, the Invisible and the Incomprehensible, the Unchangeable and the Omnipresent, who is not evil or spiteful, who alone is immortal, dwelling in incomprehensible light, who created heaven,

Earth and sea and every creature therein, who gives all people their request before they ask Him. We pray to you, O our king, the Lover of mankind, God the Father of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, who for our sake and for the sake of our salvation descended from heaven and was Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of St. Mary the Virgin the Mother of God.

O Lord, who taught us first through Your words and then by granting us Your salvation which You performed with your sacred sufferings. Grant us we who are humiliated by our sins and are unworthy to be your servants' to raise our prayers to you, and bow down our heads and our knees before you for our sins and for the unawareness of your people.

You are the Lover of mankind and the most merciful. Listen to us on this Day on which we call upon you; this Day of Pentecost on which we call upon you, this Day of Pentecost on which our Lord Jesus Christ, who after His ascension into the heavens and His sitting at the right hand of His Father, sent His Holy Spirit upon His holy disciples.

The Holy Spirit descended on each one of them and they were all filled with the Infinite grace and spoke in different tongues and prophesied of your greatness, O God. Now also, O Master, listen to us. We, being humiliated by our sins and cast down under condemnation, supplicate to you to free our captive souls by your great compassion.

We supplicate to you to accept us, we who are bowing down before you, crying out to you and saying we have sinned against you. You are our God since we were in our mothers' wombs. Our days have passed by in vain and we have been naked of Your help and are unable to give a reply for our deeds, but we trust in your lovingkindness and cry out to you, saying:

Do not remember the sins of our youth and the time of our ignorance. Cleanse us, O Lord, from our hidden impurities. Look at our humbleness and save us and forgive us our sins. Do not abandon us in our old age. Do not leave us if we deviate but grant us repentance before we return to dust. Look upon us with your grace.

Measure our sins with your compassion. Place the multitude of our repentance in the depth of your compassion. Look down, O Lord, from your high holy place upon your people;

الذي بلا عيب، الغير الدنس. الغير المبتدئ، الغير المرئي. الغير المدرك. الغير المفحوص. الذي لا يتغير ولا يستحيل. الذي يشبهه ولا يحده، الغير الشرير. الغير الحقود. الحائز وحده صفة عدم الموت. الساكن في النور الذي لا يدرك. الذي خلق السماء،

والأرض والبحر. وكل خلقه فيها. الذي يعطي كل الناس طلباتهم قبل أن يسألوه. نسأل ونطلب منك يا ملكنا يا محب البشر ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر. ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء القديسة والدة الإله.

هذا الذي علمنا أولاً بالقول، وأخيراً أَرانا خلاصه الذي صنعه بالأمه الكريمة. أعطى لنا علامة نحن المذلولين بالخطايا. والغير المستحقين أن نكون عبيداً لك، لنرفع طلباتنا. ونخضع لك بأعناقنا وركبنا. من أجل خطايانا وجهالات شعبك.

أنت الكثير الرحمة والمحب للبشر. استجب لنا في هذا اليوم الذي ندعوك فيه. سيما هذا اليوم الذي لعيد الخمسين. هذا الذي من بعد صعود ربنا يسوع المسيح إلى السموات. وجلسه عن يمين أبيه. أرسل روحه القدس علي تلاميذه القديسين.

وحل علي كل واحد فواحد منهم. فإمتلأوا جميعاً من النعمة التي لا تفرغ وتكلموا بالسنة أخرى. وتنبأوا يا الله. فالآن أيضاً استجب لنا يا سيدنا نحن الطالبين إليك المذلولين بالخطايا. المنطرحين تحت الحكم، رد سي أنفسنا لأن عظم حنوك.

يتضرع إليك من اجلنا. إقبلنا نحن الجائين لك. ونصرخ أخطأنا لأنك تركتنا منذ البدء من الحشاء أنت هو إلهنا منذ كنا في بأمهاتنا. لكن من أجل أن أيماننا فنييت بالباطل. وتعزينا من معونتك. عاجزين عن كل جواب. لكننا واثقون برأفتك. إذ نصرخ قائلين:

خطايا صباننا وجهلنا لا تذكرها. طهرنا يا رب من خفياتنا. انظر إلي تواضعنا وخلصنا واغفر لنا جميع خطايانا. ولا ترفضنا في زمن الشيخوخة. وعند فناء أنفسنا لا تتركنا. هب لنا رجعة قبل أن نعود إلي الأرض. والتفت إلينا بهدوء ونعمة،

ووازن خطايانا بتحننك، وكثرة ندامتنا ضعها بعقم رأفتك. اطع يا رب من علوك المقدس علي شعبك. هذا المطامن الرأس. المنتظر كثرة رحمتك. افتقدنا بصلاحك. نجنا من جبروت إبليس.

ثبت حياتنا بقوتك الطاهرة وناموسك الكريم. ملاكاً أميناً حافظاً أقمه لحراسة شعبك. أدخلنا جميعاً إلي ملكوتك، هب صفحاً لشعبك المتكل عليك واغفر لنا نحن أيضاً خطايانا. طهرنا كلنا بالقوة الصالحة التي لروحك القدس، حلنا من اوثقة إبليس.

these who bow down their heads waiting for the multitude of your great mercies. Visit us with your goodness. Save us from the tyranny of Satan.

Strengthen our lives by your pure power and your honorable Law. Appoint one of your honest guardian angels to guard your people. Enter us all into your kingdom. Grant forgiveness to your people who put their trust in you and forgive us also our sins. Cleanse us all by the good power of your Holy Spirit. Untie us from the bondage of Satan.

Truly blessed are you, O Lord, our king, the Almighty who enlightens the day with the light of the sun and the night with the rays of the fiery stars, who made us worthy to see the length of the day and to approach the beginning of the night. Listen to our supplication together with the supplication of all your people and forgive us our sins which we have committed knowingly and unknowingly.

Accept our evening praises. Send the multitude of your mercies and compassion upon your inheritance. May we be encircled by pure angels to guard us with the weapons of righteousness. May we be encompassed with your justice. Preserve us with your power. Save us from every affliction and from every conspiracy of the enemy. Grant us to complete this evening and this coming night with all purity and in peace and justice.

May we be without sin, or doubt or fear all the days of our lives, through the prayers of the mother of God, St. Mary the Virgin, and all the saints who pleased you ever since the beginning, through the grace, compassion and love of mankind of your only begotten son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the gift of Your Holy spirit...

تباركت بالحقيقة أيها الرب ملكنا الضابط الكل الذي أثار النهار بضوء الشمس. والليل بشعاع النجوم النارية. اسمع طلباتنا مع كافة شعبك واغفر لنا خطايانا التي بمعرفة والتي بغير معرفة.

اقبل ابتهالاتنا المسائية وأرسل كثرة رحمتك وتحنك علي ميراثك وبملائكة أطهار ليحفظوا منطلقنا بأسلحة البر، وليحيط بنا عدلك. إحفظنا بقوتك، إنقذنا من كل شدة ومن كل مؤامرة المعاند.

امنحنا أن نكمل هذه العشية وهذا الليل المقبل أيضاً بطهارة وسلامة وعدل. ونحن بلا خطية ولا شك وخوف كل أيام حياتنا بطلبات والدة الإله القديسة مريم وجميع القديسين الذين أرضوك منذ البدء بالنعمة والرأفة ومحبة البشر...

3rd Psalm – All (Psalms 65:2, 71:9)

ALL:

Let all the earth worship You, and sing to You; let them sing to Your name.

And all kings shall worship Him; all the Gentiles shall serve Him.
Alleluia.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All Respond: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, have mercy.

All Respond: Christ, have mercy.

Leader : Lord, have mercy.

All Respond: Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER IN ARAMAIC

LR: Recite

PROFESSION OF FAITH | Recitation of the Nicene Creed

(Welcome to Recite in your own language)

LR: *In truth therefore, which is undivided:*

All:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(From: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109020/Nicene-Creed.pdf>)

CONCLUDING RITE

LR: Concluding Prayer

Almighty God, as we conclude this vespers service, we offer our gratitude for the blessings of this day and we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty.

Lord Jesus Christ crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to find the lost, to free the oppressed, to heal the sick and to convert the self-centred. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breath in the life of the world and are poured out into our hearts.

As we live in the spirit, may we also walk in the spirit. Grant us faith and courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus – becoming pilgrims of justice and peace in our time.

For the blessing of our people, the sustaining of the earth and the glory of your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All - Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

LR: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Respond: Thanks be to God.