

Daily Vespers (outside Bright Week) and Lenten Daily Vespers

Daily Vespers as Served in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of Great Britain and Ireland.

Using the Liturgikon 3rd Edition 2010

Vespers is served in the evening - by tradition as the sun sets. It ushers in the next day and therefore all variable parts are for the following day.

Needed: Priest, Server, Chanter,
Menaion, Octoechos, Liturgikon,
Music book, epitachelion, correct hat,
incense and its acoutrements.

Page	Item	Priest (P)	Server (S)	Chanter (C)
		The priest needs to wear an epitachelion (bright usually and dark for fasts), kalimavkion (with flattened conical top), Exo-rasson. He needs the Liturgikon. If he is an Archimandrite or Archpriest he will wear his Cross, Archimandrites will also have a veil. Often for Daily Vespers a veil is not be worn.	The server may wear his sticharion and prepare incense. However it is simpler to wear ordinary clean and decent clothes.	The reader will stand by the reading desk and have all that is needed. These are: Daily Vespers book (Horologion), Octoechos, Menaion, Triodion and Pentecostarion according to season.
		The priest enters the Temple, bows towards the Bishop's Throne, makes 3 metanias before the holy doors (HD), bows west, enters the altar through the south door (SD) and puts on his exorasson and epitachelion.		
		If the 9th hour is to preceed Vespers it happens now. In this case the priest goes to stand before the closed curtain and begins the 9th hour.		
		The priest goes to the reader's stand and remains there until the trisagion, he then stands before the gates again and continues to the end of the hour.		

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p42	In the multitude	The priest enters the altar SD, saying the customary prayers and venerating the Gospel Book and the HT. Removes his hat, puts on an epitrachlion. The curtain is opened (along with the doors if you have them) These then stay open until the service if ended.		
p43	Blessed is our God	Blesses himself	Makes the sign of the Cross (+)	Makes the sign of the Cross (+)
	Paschal Season: Paschal troparion x 3	Chants the troparion. Does NOT hold the Paschal Candle nor does he cense.		
p43	O Come let us...	Makes the usual metanias +	Makes the usual metanias +	Recites the invitation to worship and makes the usual metanias +
p43	Psalms 103	Says the Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps (P 16-19) from his place at the HT	Pays attention to the Psalm	Recites Psalm 103 on a monotone
p43	Litany of Peace	Intoned	Prays	Chants the responses simply.
p44	Psalter - this is often omitted, in which case so is the Little Litany that goes with it.	Sits quietly pondering the psalms	Sits quietly pondering the psalms	Chants the Psalms simply
p44	Little Litany	Intoned	Prays and prepares the incense	Chants the responses simply.
p45	Lord I have cried	Blesses the incense simply. On "Let my prayer arise" does the great censuring (wearing his hat on leaving the Altar area and removing it on returning). This is done as in Daily Matins.	Hands the incense to the priest and receives it back. Opens the north door (ND) curtain to let the priest out, handing him his hat and the SD to let him in and receives his hat. The censer won't be used again (unless there are "extras") so the censer can then be emptied, checked for cleanliness etc. and put into its place. Stocks of Charcoal, lighters, incense can be checked at the same time. It is worth staying in the altar in case the priest needs assistance.	Chants Lord I have cried.

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p45	In the evening	Said quietly by the priest.		Continues with the verses on the psalms from the Octoechos or Menaion (or both).
p45	Hymn of Thanksgiving at the lighting of the lamps	Stays before the HT		Recites the Hymn of Thanksgiving.
p46	Prokeimenon	Stays before the HT		Chants the Prokeimenon for the day or saint etc.
p46	Evening Prayer	Stays before the HT		Recites the Evening Prayer
p46	Litany of Supplication	Intones the Litany from his place before the HT		Chants the responses simply.
p47	Peace be to all	Turns to the people and blesses them with the sign of the Cross	+	Responds simply. +
p48	Bow your heads	Turns East and bows head whilst saying the prayer out loud and chanting the ekphonesis.	Bows his head	Bows head, respond Amen.
p49	Aposticha	May move out of sight or stay before the HT		Chants the Aposticha and verses followed by the Theotokoion or Stavrotheotokion (Tuesday and Thursday evening) from the Octoechos or Menaion or both.
p48	Hymn of Simeon	Recites the Hymn		May be asked to recite the Hymn in place of the priest.
p48	Extras	Here added extras may be put in. E.g. Various Canons, Paraklesis, Agiasmos etc.	May be needed if incense and lamps etc. are needed.	Takes part in the extras.
p49	Trisagion prayers	Completes the Lord's Prayer		Chanted simply
	Lenten Ending will be inserted here CF p 52 ff. Except on Lenten Fridays when you continue until after the Ektenia.			
p49	Apolytikia and Theotokion or Stavro-Theotokion			Chanted
p49	Ektenia	Said at his place before the HT		Chants the responses simply.
	Fridays in Lent: At this point one continues with Lenten Vespers beginning with the Prayer of St. Ephraim on P54			
p50	Wisdom	Said at his place before the HT		Chants the responses simply.

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p50	Christ our God	Facing east makes the sign of the Cross on himself	+	+ responds simply.
p50	Preserve, O God...	Facing east.		Chanted simply
p51	Most Holy	Comes partly through the HD and bows before the Theotokos whilst saying this. Remains here facing the Theotokos. (I.e. He does not come all the way out and turn round.)		
p51	More Honourable...	Remains facing the Theotokos		Chanted simply.
p51	Glory to Thee...	Turns anticlockwise towards the Saviour and bows.		
p51	Glory to the Father ...	Makes the Sign of the Cross	+	+ responds simply.
p51	Little Dismissal	Turns clockwise to face the people and blesses them	Bows his head	Bows head, respond Amen.
p51	Through the prayers (Not in the Paschal Season when this is replaced by the Paschal Troparion)	Turns Anticlockwise towards the Saviour and bows +	+	+ Responds simply.
	Paschal Season: Paschal Troparion	Chants the troparion with the exception of the last two words.		Chants the last two words.
p51	Ending.	Enters the HD, closes the curtain, venerates the Gospel Book and the HT, removes his epitrachelion, putting it away and covers the Gospel Book and the HT with their covers.	Ensure the Altar is tidy. If he is a Subdeacon he will cover the HT with its dust cover. Receive a blessing to remove his vestment (if worn) or to leave the Altar area.	Puts away the books in their place.

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Page	Item	Priest (P)	Server (S)	Chanter (C)
p52	Lenten Ending	Wearing a dark epitachelion (purple / red).	Dark Sticharion (if worn).	Lenten musical responses.
p52	Follows p 49 of Daily Vespers after the Lord's Prayer. On Sunday Evenings in Lent it is different being exactly as Great Vespers until after the Great Entrance and prokeimena are chanted, the Vouchsafe, then the remainder is as for Daily Lenten Vespers. On Friday evening it is different again.			
p53	Rejoice, O Virgin... Through to Both now.	Prostrations x 3	Prostrations x 3	Prostrations x 3 sung in tone 5.
p53	Beneath thy compassion..	No Prostration	No Prostration	No Prostration tone 5
p53	Lord have mercy	Prays the Lord have mercys	Prays the Lord have mercys	Chanted on a monotone without any flamboyance. Also should be chanted in one group and not in self appointed sections.
p53	Glory through Bless, master...	Facing east before the HT		Chanted on a monotone.
p53	Christ our God...	Facing east makes the sign of the Cross on himself.	+	+ responds simply.
p54	Amen. O Heavenly king...	Facing east at the HT		Chanted simply.

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Page	Item	Priest (P)	Server (S)	Chanter (C)
	Friday Lenten Vespers picks up here.			
p54	Prayer of St. Ephraim	Remains in the Altar facing east. Says the prayer of St. Ephraim with 3 prostrations and does not do the "O God, be gracious..." or repeat the prayer. He returns to the HT through the HD	Leaves the Altar area and also makes the prostrations. Then returns to the Altar area.	Makes the prostrations.
p 54	Trisagion Prayers	Before the HT		
p55	Lord's Prayer	Completes the prayer		Responds simply.
p55	Lord have mercy through ... Glory of God the Father. Amen			Recited simply and "Lord have mercy"s in one block.
p55	Blessed be...	With 3 metanias	3 metanias	Recited simply with 3 metanias
p55	Psalm 33	In Altar area		Recited simply
p55	Glory through .It is truly meet....	HT facing east		Recited simply
p55	Most holy Theotokos	Comes through the HD and turns slightly to the Theotokos and bows		
p55	More Honourable...	Remains facing the Theotokos		Chanted simply.
p56	Glory to Thee...	Turns anticlockwise towards the Saviour and bows.		
p56	Glory to the Father ...	+	+	+ responds simply.
p56	Little Dismissal	Turns clockwise to face the people and blesses them	Bows his head	Bows head, respond Amen.
p56	Through the prayers	Turns Anticlockwise towards the Saviour and bows making the sign of the Cross	+	+ responds simply.
p56	Ending.	Enters the HD, closes the curtain, venerates the Gospel Book and the HT, removes his epitachelion, putting it away and covers the Gospel Book and the HT with their covers.	Ensure the Altar is tidy. If he is a Subdeacon he will cover the HT with its dust cover. Receive a blessing to remove his vestment (if worn) or to leave the Altar area.	Puts away the books in their place.
	Thus ends Daily Vespers.			