Preface

The Chants of Vespers set those texts which are commonly sung at Great Vespers in the Orthodox Church. The settings are indebted to the various musical idioms of Orthodoxy: Movement I, O Come, Let Us Worship, is based on a Greater Znamenny chant fragment, and leads directly into Movement II, Bless the Lord, O My Soul, which uses musical material derived from Greco-Byzantine Tone 6. Movements III and IV, Blessed is the Man and O Gladsome Light, are based on melodies found in the Russian and Greek traditions respectively; Movement V, The Song of St. Simeon, is based on musical material derived from Greco-Byzantine Tone 5, and the final movement, Preserve, O God, sets the familiar melody of Russian Tone 1.

While the texts and some of the music are indeed those sung at Great Vespers, these settings are intended strictly as concert music - they are, almost without exception, too long and too musically involved to be appropriate for liturgical use.

Performing forces

While The Chants of Vespers will work well with reasonably large choral forces, they are also possible for smaller choirs, even (in most cases) an octet. The principal consideration is that each choir should have the same number of singers. Choir I should stand on the conductor’s left, Choir II, on his right. The amount of separation between the two choirs is left to the conductor’s discretion, though the groups should not be so far apart that rhythmic ensemble becomes difficult.

Soloists: Various movements call for soloists, the most extensive of which is Movement II. In all cases the soloists should have clear voices with a minimum of vibrato; “operatic” singing, with its attendant “dramatic” production and large vibrato, is completely inappropriate. The soloists should stand in the midst of the choruses.

Mode of performance

The optimum performance is, of course, a performance of all six movements; but individual movements may be extracted and performed alone. The sole exception to this is Movement I, which must be performed with Movement II. (Movement II may be performed alone, however.)
I. O Come, Let Us Worship
(Based on a Greater Znammeny Chant fragment)

Richard Toensing

Soprano

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Alto

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Choir I

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Tenor

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Baritone

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Soprano

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Alto

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Choir II

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Tenor

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Bass

mf  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p  \( \rightarrow \)  p

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
A\quad O \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

Piano

\( \begin{array}{c}
\text{2} \\
mf \\
\text{2}
\end{array} \)

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O Come, Let Us Worship

S
worship and bow down before Christ, our

A
worship and bow down before Christ, our

Ch. I
worship and bow down before Christ, our

T
worship and bow down before Christ, our

Bar
worship and bow down before Christ, our

S
mm ah before Christ, our

A
mm ah before Christ, our

Ch. II
mm ah before Christ, our

T
mm ah before Christ, our

B
mm ah before Christ, our

Pno.

I. O Come, Let Us Worship

King and our God.
I. O Come, Let Us Worship

S: come, let us worship and bow down
A: come, let us worship and bow down
Ch. I: come, let us worship and bow down
T: come, let us worship and bow down
Bar: come, let us worship and bow down
S: O come, let us worship and bow down
A: O worship and bow down
Ch. II: O worship and bow down
T: O worship and bow down
B: O come, worship and bow down
Pno: O come, worship and bow down
I. O Come, Let Us Worship

S
— our 3 King and our God. pp

A
— our 2 King and our God. pp

Ch. I
— our King and our God. pp

T
— our 3 King and our God. pp

Bar
— our King and our God. pp

S
— our 3 King and our God. pp

A
— our 2 King and our God. pp

Ch. II
— our King and our God. pp

T
— our 3 King and our God. pp

B
— our King and our God. pp

Pno.
— our 3 King and our God. pp

rit. 32 attacca Mvt. II

pp
Bless the Lord, O My Soul
(Loosely based on Byzantine Tone 6)
Richard Toensing

\( \sigma = 48 \); Serene and spacious

Soprano solo

\( \text{soprano solo} \)

Soprano

\( \text{soprano} \)

Amen.

Alto

\( \text{alto} \)

Amen.

Tenor solo

\( \text{tenor solo} \)

\( \text{tenor} \)

\( \text{bass} \)

\( \text{piano} \) (rehearsal only)

\( \sigma = 48 \); Serene and spacious

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Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

O my soul!

S

div. p

Blessed art thou,

A

Blessed art thou,

T. solo

O my soul!

T

Blessed art thou,

B

O my soul!

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

God, ________ thou _______ art ve - - - ry great!

Blessed art

God, ________ thou _______ art ve - - - ry great!

Blessed art

Blessed art

Blessed art
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Thou art

Thou art

thou, bles - - - sed art thou, O Lord!

Thou art

thou, bles - - - sed art thou, O Lord!

Thou art

thou, bles - - - sed art thou, O Lord!

Thou art
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

S

\( p \) \textit{div.}

\begin{align*}
\text{Blessed art thou,} & \quad \text{blessed art thou, O Lord!} \\
\end{align*}

A

\begin{align*}
\text{Blessed art thou,} & \quad \text{blessed art thou, O Lord!} \\
\end{align*}

T. solo

T

\begin{align*}
\text{Blessed art thou,} & \quad \text{blessed art thou, O Lord!} \\
\end{align*}

B

\begin{align*}
\text{Blessed art thou,} & \quad \text{blessed art thou, O Lord!} \\
\end{align*}

Pno.

\begin{align*}
\text{Blessed art thou,} & \quad \text{blessed art thou, O Lord!} \\
\end{align*}
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

who cov' - rest thy - self with light

S

unis. p

who cov' - rest thy - self with light

A

who cov' - rest thy - self with light

T. solo

who cov' - rest thy - self with light

T

B

Pno.

mf
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

as with a garment.

S

as with a garment.

A

as with a garment. Blessed art thou,

T. solo

as with a garment.

T

Blessed art thou,

B

Blessed art thou.

Pno.

as with a garment.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

S

A

T. solo

T

B

Pno.

bles - - - - sed art thou, O Lord!
bles - - - - sed art thou, O Lord!
bles - - - - sed art thou, O Lord!
bles - - - - sed art thou, O Lord!
\( \textit{d = 60; With more movement} \)

S. solo

The waters stood above the

S

The waters stood above the

A

The waters stood above the

T. solo

The waters stood above the

T

B

\( \textit{d = 60; With more movement} \)

Pno.

\( mf \)
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo
2
mountains

S
2
mountains

A
unis.
div.
mountains

T. solo
2
mountains.

T
mf
How glorious

B

Pno.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

86

The waters

S

mf

The waters

A

mf

O Lord!

The waters

T. solo

T

auss are thy works, O Lord!

The waters

B

Pno.

mf
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo
flow between the hills

S
flow between the hills

div.

A
flow between the hills

How

T. solo
flow between the hills

T
flow between the hills

B
flow between the hills

Pno.
flow between the hills

mf
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

Glorious are thy works, O Lord!

A

div.

T. solo

Glorious are thy works, O Lord!

T

B

Glorious are thy works, O Lord!

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

In wisdom

pp

unis.

pp

In wisdom

pp

In wisdom

pp
Bless the Lord, O My Soul
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

thee, O Lord, who hast created all!

S

thee, O Lord, who hast created all!

A

thee, O Lord, who hast created all!

T. solo

thee, O Lord, who hast created all!

T

B

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

\( p \) tutti

\( p \) tutti div.

T. solo

\( p \)

T

B

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Glorify to the Father and to the
Glorify to the Father and to the
Glorify to the Father and to the
Glorify to the Father and to the
Glorify to the Father and to the
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

Son and to the Holy Spirit

S

Son

A

(stagger breathing)

T. solo

Son and to the Holy Spirit

T

(stagger breathing)

B

(stagger breathing)

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

S

A

T. solo

T

B

Pno.

Glory to thee, O Lord, who hast created
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

both now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-

A

both now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-

T. solo

all! both now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-

T

all! both now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-

B

all! both now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. A-

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

Glo-ry to thee, O Lord, who

S

men.

T. solo

Glo-ry to thee, O Lord, who

T

men.

B

men.
in

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

\[ \text{hast created all!} \]

PPP

S

Alleluia

PPP div.

A

Alleluia

T. solo

\[ \text{hast created all!} \]

PPP

T

Alleluia

PPP

B

Alleluia

Pno.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul

S. solo

S

A

T. solo

T

B

Pno.

Al

ia, Al- le- lu- ia, Glo- ry to thee, O God! Al-

unis.

ia, Al- le- lu- ia, Glo- ry to thee, O God! Al-

unis.

ia, Al- le- lu- ia, Glo- ry to thee, O God! Al-

ia, Al- le- lu- ia, Glo- ry to thee, O God! Al-

unis.

ia, Al- le- lu- ia, Glo- ry to thee, O God! Al-

ia, Al- le- lu- ia, Glo- ry to thee, O God! Al-
Bless the Lord, O My Soul
III. Blessed is the Man
(Based on a traditional melody)

Richard Toensing

\[ d = 120 \]; Chant-like

Soprano

\[ \text{pp} \]

\[ 2 \]

\[ \text{mf} \]

Alto

\[ \text{mf} \]

Choir I

Blessed is the man who walk-eth not

Tenor

\[ \text{mf} \]

Baritone

\[ 2 \]

Soprano

\[ 2 \]

Alto

\[ 2 \]

Choir II

Blessed is the man who walk-eth not

Tenor

\[ 2 \]

Bass

\[ d = 120 \]; Chant-like

Piano (rehearsal only)

\[ \text{mf} \]

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III. Blessed is the Man

---

8 in the counsel of the wicked:

10 in the counsel of the wicked:

12 in the counsel of the wicked:

14 in the counsel of the wicked:

---

8 Alleluia

10 Alleluia

12 Alleluia

14 Alleluia

---

8 in the counsel of the wicked:

10 in the counsel of the wicked:

12 in the counsel of the wicked:

14 in the counsel of the wicked:

---

8 Alleluia

10 Alleluia

12 Alleluia

14 Alleluia

---

8 Alleluia

10 Alleluia

12 Alleluia

14 Alleluia

---

8 Alleluia

10 Alleluia

12 Alleluia

14 Alleluia

---

8 Alleluia

10 Alleluia

12 Alleluia

14 Alleluia

---

8 Alleluia

10 Alleluia

12 Alleluia

14 Alleluia
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

For the Lord knows the way of the right

For the Lord knows the way of the right

For the Lord knows the way of the right
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S
A
Ch. I
T
Bar
S
A
Ch. II
T
B
Pno.

joyce in Him with trembling.
III. Blessed is the Man
III. Blessed is the Man

Blessed are all they who take
III. Blessed is the Man

S
lu - cia, al - le - lu - cia

A
lu - cia, al - le - lu - cia

Ch. I
lu - cia, al - le - lu - cia

T
lu - cia, al - le - lu - cia

Ch. II
lu - cia, al - le - lu - cia

B
lu - cia, al - le - lu - cia

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs

Salvation belongs
III. Blessed is the Man

to the Lord: thy blessing be up

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

A

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

Ch. I

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

T

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

Bar

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

S

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

A

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

Ch. II

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

T

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

B

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}

Pno.

\begin{quote}
- i - a, al - le - lu - i - a,
\end{quote}
III. Blessed is the Man

S
---

A
---

Ch. I
---

T
---

Bar
---

S
---

A
---

Ch. II
---

T
---

B
---

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Both now, and

Both now, and

Both now, and

Both now, and

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

\begin{align*}
\text{S} & \quad e\quad v\quad e\quad r\quad a\quad n\quad t\quad o\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s\quad o\quad \text{f}\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s. \quad A \\
\text{A} & \quad e\quad v\quad e\quad r\quad a\quad n\quad t\quad o\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s. \quad A \\
\text{Ch. II} & \quad e\quad v\quad e\quad r, \quad a\quad n\quad t\quad o\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s. \quad A \\
\text{T} & \quad e\quad v\quad e\quad r, \quad a\quad n\quad t\quad o\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s. \quad A \\
\text{B} & \quad e\quad v\quad e\quad r, \quad a\quad n\quad t\quad o\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s. \quad A \\
\text{Pno.} & \quad e\quad v\quad e\quad r, \quad a\quad n\quad t\quad o\quad a\quad g\quad e\quad s. \quad A
\end{align*}
III. Blessed is the Man

Al - le - lu - i - a,

Al - le - lu - i - a.

Al - le - lu - i - a.

Al - le - lu - i - a.

Al - le - lu - i - a.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

glory to thee, O God.

glory to thee, O God.

glory to thee, O God.

glory to thee, O God.

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

B

Pno.

i-a, glory to thee, O God.
III. Blessed is the Man

S  

A  

Ch. I  

T  

Bar  

S  

A  

Ch. II  

T  

B  

Pno.
III. Blessed is the Man

i - a, glo - ry to thee,
III. Blessed is the Man

S

272 ___________ 274
O _______ God.

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

272

O ___________ God.

S

272 ___________ 274
O _______ God.

276 ___________ 278

A

Ch. II

T


B

O ___________ God.

Pno.
IV. O Gladsome Light
(Based on a traditional melody)  

Richard Toensing

\[ \text{\( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{r}} = 72 \); Calmly flowing} \]

Soprano

Alto

Choir I

Tenor

Baritone

Soprano

Alto

Choir II

Tenor

Bass

\( \text{\( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{r}} = 72 \); Calmly flowing} \)

Piano

(Rehearsal only)
IV. O Gladsome Light

of th’Immortal, heavenly, holy, and
IV. O Gladsome Light

blessed Father: O Jesus Christ!

blessed Father: O Jesus Christ!

blessed Father: O Jesus Christ!

blessed Father: O Jesus Christ!
O gladsome light!
we have come to the setting
O gladsome light!
to the setting
we have come to the setting
IV. O Gladsome Light

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.
IV. O Gladsome Light

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

is for Thee at all times to be

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

is for Thee at all times to be

Pno.
IV. O Gladsome Light

S | magnified with joyous voices O Son of God,
A | magnified with joyous voices O Son of God,
Ch. I | magnified with joyous voices O Son of God,
T | magnified with joyous voices O Son of God,
Bar | magnified with joyous voices O Son of God,
IV. O Gladsome Light

S

God Giv-er, and

A

God Giv - er, and

Ch. I

T

God Giv - er, and

Bar

S

God Giv - er, and

A

Giv - er, Giv - er of life

Ch. II

T

Giv - er, Giv - er of life

B

Giv - er, Giv - er of life

Pno.
Therefore the whole world doth
IV. O Gladsome Light

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.

doth glo

Doth glo

Doth glo

glorify

Doth glo

glorify

Pp (echo)

Pp (echo)

Pp (echo)

Pp

Pp
IV. O Gladsome Light

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

Ch. II

T

B

glo - ri - fy Thee.

Pno.
V. Song of St. Simeon the God-receiver
(Loosely based on Byzantine Tone 5)
Richard Toensing

Soprano

Alto

Choir I

Tenor

Baritone

Soprano

Alto

Choir II

Tenor

Bass

Piano (rehearsal only)

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

Lord, now let-test Thou thy

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thv word, according to thy word.

thy word, according to thy word:

thy word, according to thy word:

thy word, according to thy word:

thy word, according to thy word:

peace, according to thy word, ac-

peace, according to thy word, ac-

peace, according to thy word, ac-

peace, according to thy word, ac-

according to thy word, ac-

according to thy word, ac-

according to thy word, ac-

According to thy word,
V. Song of St. Simeon the God-receiver

For mine
For mine
For mine
For mine

According to thy word:
According to thy word:
According to thy word:
According to thy word:
eyes have seen, mine eyes have seen thy sal -
eyes have seen, mine eyes have seen thy sal -
eyes have seen, mine eyes have seen thy sal -
eyes have seen, mine eyes have seen thy sal -

V. Song of St. Simeon the God-receiver

S

which thou hast prepar'd, before the face of all peo-

A

which thou hast prepar'd, before the face of all peo-

Ch. I

which thou hast prepar'd, before the face of all peo-

Ch. II

which thou hast prepar'd, before the face of all peo-

T

which thou hast prepar'd, before the face of all peo-

B

which thou hast prepar'd, before the face of all peo-

Pno.
Before the face of all people:
V. Song of St. Simeon the God-receiver

light, to be a light to lighten the Gen
light, to be a light to lighten the Gen
light, to be a light to lighten the Gen
V. Song of St. Simeon the God-receiver

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

and to be the glory.

and to be the glory.

and to be the glory.

and to be the glory.

Pno.
V. Song of St. Simeon the God-receiver

ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
ry of thy people Israel.
VI. Preserve, O God (insert*)

Richard Toensing

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith... and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

* In the event that movements V (The Song of St. Simeon) and VI (Preserve, O God) are performed in succession this solo is to be chanted between those two movements. It is also to be chanted if the entire work is performed as a unity.
VI. Preserve, O God

S

A

Ch. I

T

Bar

S

A

Ch. II

T

B

Pno.

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith

The holy Orthodox faith
VI. Preserve, O God

the holy Orthodox faith,

the holy Orthodox faith,

the holy Orthodox faith,

the holy Orthodox faith,
VI. Preserve, O God

Most holy The-o-to-kos, save us!

ages of ages. Amen.
VI. Preserve, O God

hon'raible than the Cherubim, more hon'raible than the
hon'raible than the Cherubim, more hon'raible than the
hon'raible than the Cherubim, more hon'raible than the
hon'raible than the Cherubim,
hon'raible than the Cherubim.
hon'raible than the Cherubim.
hon'raible than the Cherubim,

hon'raible than the Cherubim,
VI. Preserve, O God

Che-rub-im,

and more glorious beyond compare than the

and more glorious beyond compare than the

and more glorious beyond compare than the

and more glorious beyond compare than the
More glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim,
More glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim,
More glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim,
More glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim,
Se - ra - phim,
Se - ra - phim,
Se - ra - phim,
Se - ra - phim,
Thou
Thou
Thou
Thou
f
without stain didst bear God the Word,
and art truly Theotokos,

and art truly Theotokos,

and art truly Theotokos,

and art truly Theotokos,

and art truly Theotokos,
VI. Preserve, O God

and art truly Theotokos, and art truly Theotokos,

and art truly Theotokos, and art truly Theotokos,

and art truly Theotokos, and art truly Theotokos,
VI. Preserve, O God

Niwot CO
Sept. '09 - Jan. '10
Κυριε, ελεισον εμας