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# The Horologion: The Book of the Hours

## The Setting of the Sun: Vespers (the Eleventh Hour)

*The people gather at the setting of the sun. The lamps are solemnly lit while “Psalm 116: Glory be to our God. Praise the Lord, all you nations” is chanted in its known tune. The Evening Praise is said as the final service of the* preceding *day, saying the Psali and Theotokia of that day. Afterwards, then sun having set and the new day begun, Vespers is said as the first service of the new day, either the laic Little Vespers, or the full presbyter lead community Vespers, which begins with the Little Vespers but proceeds after the Kyrie to the Raising of Incense). Today it is customary to say the Ninth hour before Vespers if it has not been said previously in the preceding day, in order to complete the rule of the previous day before beginning Vespers. It is also customary to group the Psalms of the 9th, 11th, and 12th hours together, and then say Vespers Praise, and finally raise incense in order to save time (though this practice confuses the order of services).*

### Vespers Praise

#### Psalm 116

*After Psalm 116, the rest of Vespers Praise follows identically the order of Lauds, Page ##, but with the Psali and Theotokia of the previous day.*

### The Psalms of the Eleventh Hour (Little Vespers)

### The Raising of Evening Incense

## After Supper: Retiring[[1]](#footnote-1) (the Twelfth Hour)

*This hour is commonly called Compline, from the Latin word for “complete”, since in the Latin rite it is the prayer before sleeping is the last hour of the day, and completes the rule of the day. However, in the Eastern tradition, Vespers has already begun the new day and the prayer at retiring is well into the new day, so the name ‘Compline’ is not appropriate.*

### The Psalms of the Twelfth Hour

### The Prayer of the Veil

## Midnight

### The Psalms of the First Watch

### The Psalms of the Second Watch

### The Psalms of the Third Watch

### The Midnight Praise

#### The First Canticle

#### The Second Canticle

#### The Third Canticle

#### The Communion of Saints

#### The Doxologies

* No shere ne o Ti Parthenos
* Seasonal, then Midnight for Virgin, then as appropriate, then conclude as in ROI, followed by:

#### The Sick O Lord Heal Them (last vs of watos theotokia conclusion) – Only if not proceeding directly to:

## The Rising of the Sun: Lauds or Matins

### Lauds

#### The Fourth Canticle

#### The Psali

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## Early Morning: Prime (The First Hour)

### The Psalms of Prime

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## Mid-Morning (The Third Hour)

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## Noon (The Sixth Hour)

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## The Pascal Cycle

### Jonah’s Fast

### Jonah’s Feast

### Great Lent

### Lazarus Saturday

### Palm Sunday

### Resurrection

### Thomas Sunday

### The Holy Fifty

### Ascension

### Pentecost

## Hymns for Koiak

1. This hour is often referred to as “Compline”, the Latin term for the 12th hour. This is inappropriate, as the meaning of “Compline” is completion, i.e. it is the completion of the hours of the day. However, in the Eastern rite, Vespers is the beginning of the new day, and the 12th hour is firmly in the new day. The Greek “Apodeipnon”, literally means “after supper”, and “Asheya” in Arabic has the root word of Asha, meaning “dinner/supper”. This hour is said by families after dinner, and before sleeping. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)