

# Vespers as a Reader's Service

Venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great (Jan. 17)

For use on Saturday evening, January 16, 2021

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

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(x3)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Lord, have mercy. *(x12)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

## *Psalm 103*

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever.

The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth.

He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening.

How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein.

All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(x3)*

Lord, have mercy. *(x12)*

## ***Blessed Is The Man***

**People:** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Salvation belongs to the Lord! Thy blessing be upon Thy people!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(x3)*

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

## ***Lord, I Call (Tone 7)***

**People:** Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon Thee. Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord!

**Reader:** Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips. Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen. The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head. For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been. They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades. For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away. Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity. The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by. With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication. I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare. When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths. In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me. Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living. Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low. Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Thy name.

***Tone 7 (Resurrection)***

**People:** Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, Who destroyed the dominion of death! Let us sing to Him with the bodiless hosts, for He enlightened the race of man! O our Maker and Savior, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.

**People:** Thou didst endure the Cross and burial for our sake. By Thy death, Thou didst destroy death as God. We fall down before Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Savior, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

**People:** When the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Maker, they were amazed and sang the angelic praise. This is the glory of the Church. This is the richness of the Kingdom. O Lord, crucified for our sake, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

**People:** Thou wast held by lawless men, O Christ, but to me, Thou art God, and I am not ashamed. Thou wast smitten on the cheek, but I do not deny Thee. Thou wast nailed to the Cross and I do not conceal it, for I glory in Thy Resurrection: Thy death is my life. O almighty Lord and Lover of man, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

***Tone 4 (St. Anthony)***

**People:** Burning with divine love and radiant with the Spirit, thy soul rose to desire truly infinite love. Thou didst despise flesh and blood and didst live apart from the world, yet thou wast united to it by great silence and abstinence. Therefore thou wast fulfilled as thou didst desire, and as a star radiant with blessings, O Anthony, thou dost illumine our souls.

**Reader:** For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

**People:** Burning with divine love and radiant with the Spirit, thy soul rose to desire truly infinite love. Thou didst despise flesh and blood and didst live apart from the world, yet thou wast united to it by great silence and abstinence. Therefore thou wast fulfilled as thou didst desire, and as a star radiant with blessings, O Anthony, thou dost illumine our souls.

**Reader:** From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

**People:** Thou wast radiant with divine light by the grace of the Holy Spirit, O Father Anthony. Thou didst shatter the flying weapons of the demons. By thy godly teachings thou didst expose their evil snares. Thou wast a radiant light for monks: the first to adorn the desert; a prayerful and skilled physician of the sick, and the first clear example of the ascetic life.

**Reader:** For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

**People:** Thou wast radiant with divine light by the grace of the Holy Spirit, O Father Anthony. Thou didst shatter the flying weapons of the demons. By thy godly teachings thou didst expose their evil snares. Thou wast a radiant light for monks: the first to adorn the desert; a prayerful and skilled physician of the sick, and the first clear example of the ascetic life.

**Reader:** O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

**People:** O Anthony, pure in heart and soul, an earthly angel and a heavenly man, a teacher of chastity, a clear measure of abstinence; now thou dost live with thy Master, O blessed saint. Thou dost offer Him unceasing praise, as do the Angels, all holy monastics, and martyrs. Do thou free from sin and danger those that ever keep thy holy memory!

**Reader:** For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.

**People:** O Anthony, pure in heart and soul, an earthly angel and a heavenly man, a teacher of chastity, a clear measure of abstinence; now thou dost live with thy Master, O blessed saint. Thou dost offer Him unceasing praise, as do the Angels, all holy monastics, and martyrs. Do thou free from sin and danger those that ever keep thy holy memory!

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*Tone 4 (St. Anthony)*

**People:** Thou didst set thy mind as master over the deadly passions, keeping the image unharmed through the ascetic life. Thus thou didst rise into the perfect likeness, for, bravely curbing nature, thou didst hasten to subject to that which is better: and didst make the body servant to the spirit. Therefore thou wast revealed as the chief of those living the monastic life, a citizen of the desert, a master teaching those who didst come to thee, a perfect example of virtue. Now the shadows have been set aside, O Anthony, and in heaven thou beholdest in purity the Holy Trinity, as thou dost pray with boldness for those who honor thee with faith and love.

**Reader:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Tone 7 (Resurrection)*

**People:** No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing, for the order of nature was overruled by God. Thou wast revealed to be a Mother above nature, for thou didst remain a Virgin beyond reason and understanding. Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos! The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin! Knowing thee to be the Mother of God, devoutly we pray to thee: "Beseech Him to save our souls!"

## *O Gladsome Light*

**People:** O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of life! Therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee!

## *Prokeimenon*

**Reader:** The prokeimenon in the sixth tone:  
The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

**People:** The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

**Reader:** The Lord is robed with strength and hath girt Himself.

**People:** The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

**Reader:** For He hath made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.

**People:** The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

**Reader:** Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

**People:** The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

**Reader:** The Lord is King

**People:** He is robed in majesty!

## ***Old Testament Readings***

**Reader:** The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

***[Wisdom of Solomon 5:15 - 6:3]***

The righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most High. Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand: for with his right hand shall he cover them, and with his arm shall he protect them.

He shall take to him his jealousy for complete armour, and make the creature his weapon for the revenge of his enemies. He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate, and true judgment instead of an helmet. He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with him against the unwise.

Then shall the right aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark. And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast as out of a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away: thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty.

Hear therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations. For power is given you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Highest.



**Reader:** The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

***[Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9]***

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality.

And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself. As gold in the furnace hath He tried them, and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign for ever. They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

**Reader:** The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

***[Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9]***

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

He pleased God, and was beloved of Him: so that living among sinners he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind.

He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened He to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood not, neither laid they up this in their minds, That His grace and mercy is with His saints, and that He hath respect unto His chosen.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. (*x12*)

## *Vouchsafe, O Lord*

**Reader:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, grant me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes. O Lord, Thy mercy endureth for ever; disdain not the works of Thy hands. Unto Thee is due praise, unto Thee is due song, unto Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*x3*)

## *Aposticha*

### *Tone 7 (Resurrection)*

**People:** As the Savior of the world Thou didst arise from the tomb. As God Thou didst resurrect the race of man with Thy flesh. O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

**People:** Come, let us worship the One Who rose from the dead, and enlightened all creation! By His death, He saved us from the torments of hell. By His Resurrection He has granted us eternal life and great mercy.

**Reader:** For He has established the world, which shall not be moved!

**People:** Thou didst descend into hell, capturing death, O Christ. In three days Thou didst rise again, resurrecting us who glorify Thy Resurrection, O Lord and Lover of man.

**Reader:** Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

**People:** When Thou wast placed in the tomb as one asleep, the sight was great and awesome. But when Thou didst rise on the third day as almighty God, Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself. Glory to Thy Resurrection, only Lover of man!

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

***Tone 8 (St. Anthony)***

**People:** We honor thee, O Anthony our father, as the instructor of a multitude of monks. We have indeed learned to walk rightly in thy footsteps. Blessed art thou, for having labored for Christ, thou didst denounce the power of the enemy. Thou wast a converser with the Angels and a companion of Paul of Thebes. Together with them, entreat the Lord that He grant mercy to our souls!

**Reader:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

***Tone 8 (Resurrection)***

**People:** O unwedded Virgin, who ineffably conceived God in the flesh, O Mother of God most high, accept the cries of thy servants! O blameless one, grant cleansing of transgressions to all! Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

## ***Prayer of St. Symeon***

**People:** Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. **(x3)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. **(x3)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

# *Troparia*

## *Tone 7 (Resurrection)*

**People:** By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy. And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Either:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

## *Tone 4 (St. Anthony)*

**People:** You imitated the ways of zealous Elijah, and followed the straight path of John the Baptist. You became a desert-dweller, strengthening the world by your prayers. O Father Anthony, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved!

**Either:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## *Tone 4 (Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion)*

**People:** The mystery hidden from all ages and unknown to the angels was made manifest to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: God took flesh in a union without confusion and for our sakes willingly accepted the cross; and thereby He raised the first-formed man and saved our souls from death.

# *Dismissal*

**People:** Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith, and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*x3*)

O Christ, bless!

**Reader:** Thou that didst rise from the dead, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our venerable and Godbearing Father Anthony the Great, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.