

Vespers as a Reader's Service

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia (4th Sunday of January)

For use on Saturday evening, January 23, 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 8)

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 8 (Resurrection)

People: We offer to Thee, O Christ, our evening song and reasonable service, for Thou didst will to have mercy on us by Thy Resurrection.

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

People: Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Thy face! For Thou didst will to have mercy on us by Thy Resurrection.

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

People: Rejoice, O holy Zion: Mother of the churches, the abode of God, for thou wast the first to receive remission of sins by the Resurrection.

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

People: The Word of God the Father, begotten before the ages, in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin and endured crucifixion unto death. He has saved mortal man by His Resurrection.

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

Tone 5 (New Martyrs)

People: Rejoice, new martyrs and confessors of Russia, the adornment of the Orthodox. lambs of the new slaughter, fellow warriors, and guardians of the faith, Blameless intercessors for us with God in the latter years, who in your sufferings appear as emulators of the first martyrs; O unshakeable pillars of patient endurance, entreat God that our souls be granted great mercy.

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: Rejoice, O glorious passion-bearers! Following in the steps of the martyrs of old, you contended firmly for the sake of the faith, in the cruel and grievous times of your land. And now you rouse all to the glory and praise of God, Who strengthened your weaknesses and has enriched you with gifts of the Spirit. Ever pray for the salvation of our souls.

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

People: O heavenly protectors, come to us who await the visitation of your prayer, and deliver us from danger caused by the madness of unbelievers; for which we are often pursued like prisoners and outcasts, moving from place to place and wandering in caves and mountains. Have compassion, O all-praised martyrs and confessors, and grant us relief! Pacify the storm and extinguish the hostility towards us, praying to God Who through you grants to our land great mercy.

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

Tone 6 (New Martyrs)

People: O longsuffering archpastor, Father Tikhon, in a time of terrible godless persecutions, comforting the true children of the Church of Russia, with courage thou didst stand up for Christ and the Orthodox faith; and, dying day by day for the sake of thy pastoral service, thou wast revealed as a steadfast confessor. For this, we lovingly glorify thee.

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

People: O true shepherd, Hieromartyr Vladimir, when lawless men compelled thee to depart from overseeing the Church of Russia, thou didst remain faithful in deed and word to Hierarch Tikhon. Like a holy sacrifice from Kiev, the mother of Russian cities, thou didst offer thyself to God, praying for those who were slaying thee. For this, we willingly glorify thee.

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

People: O Hieromartyr Benjamin, as a true son of Christ's Church, and having heartfelt zeal for her welfare, thou didst bravely take thy stand against the false shepherds who were striving to steal thy flock, but not fearing the threats and false testimony of those who questioned thee, thou didst turn the judgment back upon the head of those who tested thee; and then, by thy death, thou didst strengthen Orthodoxy. For this, we willingly glorify thee.

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

Tone 5 (New Martyrs)

People: O most high Master, glorified and worshipped in Trinity, take pity on us by the acceptable prayers of Thy new martyrs, who in the presence of tyrants boldly confessed Thee, the One God, and Thine ineffable saving incarnation, from a Virgin Mother, O Son of God.

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

Tone 8 (Resurrection)

People: The King of heaven, because of His love for man, appeared on earth and dwelt with men. He took flesh from the pure Virgin and after assuming it, He came forth from her. The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person. Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man, we confess Christ our God! Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on 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!

Readings

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

[Acts 4:6-32]

In those days, Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed. And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Reader: The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy.

[II Timothy 4:1-8]

My son Timothy, I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

[Hebrews 11:33-40]

Brethren, by faith, the Saints subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

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 8 (Resurrection)

People: Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross, the eternal Life has come for death to raise those who are fallen; to enlighten those in darkness. O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to Thee!

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

People: We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead. He accepted the human body and soul, and freed both from suffering. His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled. His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb. He is the Redeemer of our souls.

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

People: In psalms and songs we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ. By it, Thou hast freed us from the tortures of hell and as God hast granted eternal life and great mercy.

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

People: O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth, by Thy suffering on the Cross Thou hast gained passionlessness for me. Accepting burial and arising in glory, Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself by Thine almighty hand. Glory to Thy rising on the third day! By it Thou hast granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins as the only compassionate One.

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

Tone 2 (New Martyrs)

People: O new house of Ephratha, splendid and elect region, O holy Russia, guard the Orthodox faith, in which is thy confirmation and support.

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

Tone 8 (New Martyrs)

People: O marvelous wonder; the Queen of heaven and earth, who has been entreated by the saints of our land, has until now sheltered the Russian land, tenderly enriching the choir of its people. O mighty and sovereign Lady, cease not to pray for confirmation of the Orthodox faith in Rus' and to pour out wonders forever. Amen.

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 8 (Resurrection)

People: Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

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

Tone 4 (New Martyrs)

People: Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, 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.