

# Vespers as a Reader's Service

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Start of the Lenten Triodion).

For use on Saturday evening, February 20, 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 4)*

**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 4 (Resurrection)***

**People:** We glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God, by always honoring Thy life-creating Cross; by it Thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man, O almighty One. By it Thou hast renewed our entrance to heaven, for Thou art good and the Lover of man.

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

**People:** Thou didst loose the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior, by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross. By descending to hell, O almighty God, Thou didst break the bonds of death. Therefore, we adore Thy Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy: "Glory to Thee, O all-powerful Lord!"

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

**People:** Thou didst smash the gates of hell, O Lord, and by Thy death Thou didst demolish the kingdom of death. Thou didst deliver the race of men from corruption, granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

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

**People:** Come, O people, let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day! By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell. By it, we have received life and incorruption. Save us by Thy Resurrection! O Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to Thee!

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

**People:** Angels and men sing of Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Savior. By it, the ends of the earth have been illumined. By it we have been delivered from bondage to the Enemy. Save us by Thy Resurrection! O life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to Thee!

**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:** Thou hast shattered the gates of brass and destroyed the chains of death, O Christ God. Thou hast raised the fallen human race. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to Thee!

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

**People:** O Lord, Thy begetting from the Father is timeless and everlasting. Thine incarnation from the Virgin is beyond words and understanding. Thy descent into hell is terrible for the devil and his angels. Thou hast trampled on death, rising on the third day, and granting men incorruption and 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 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** Brothers, let us not pray like the Pharisee! He who exalts himself will be humbled. Let us prepare to abase ourselves by fasting; let us cry aloud with the voice of the Publican: "O God, forgive us sinners!"

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

**People:** Brothers, let us not pray like the Pharisee! He who exalts himself will be humbled. Let us prepare to abase ourselves by fasting; let us cry aloud with the voice of the Publican: "O God, forgive us sinners!"

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

**People:** The Pharisee went up to the temple with a proud and empty heart; the Publican bowed himself in repentance. They both stood before Thee, O Master: the one, through boasting, lost his reward, but the other, with tears and sighs, won Thy blessing: Strengthen me, O Christ our God, as I weep in Thy presence, since Thou art the Lover of man!

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

***Tone 8 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** I know the value of tears, O almighty Lord: they delivered Hezekiah from the gates of death, and rescued the harlot from repeated sins. Tears justified the Publican instead of the Pharisee. I pray Thee, O Lord: "Number me with the former, and have mercy on me!"

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

***Tone 4 (Resurrection)***

**People:** The Prophet David was a father of the Lord through thee, O Virgin. He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in thee: “At Thy right hand stood the Queen,” Thy Mother, the mediatrix of life, since God was freely born of her without a father. He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion, so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers. Christ Who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

***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!

**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 4 (Resurrection)*

**People:** By ascending the Cross, O Lord, Thou hast annulled our ancestral curse. By descending to hell, Thou hast freed the eternal prisoners, granting incorruption to the human race. Therefore in songs we glorify Thy life-creating and saving Resurrection.

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

**People:** By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord, Thou didst shake all of creation. By being laid in the tomb Thou hast raised those who dwelt in the tombs, granting life and incorruption to the human race. Therefore in songs we glorify Thy rising on the third day.

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

**People:** The lawless people, O Christ, handed Thee over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified, thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor. But voluntarily Thou didst endure burial, rising by Thy own power on the third day as God, granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

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

**People:** With tears the women reached Thy tomb, searching for Thee, but not finding Thee. They wept with wailing and lamented: "Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all, how wast Thou stolen? What place can hold Thy life-bearing body?" An Angel replied to them: "Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, granting us joy as the only compassionate One!"



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

*Tone 5 (from the Lenten Triodion)*

**People:** The weight of my transgressions burdens mine eyes: I cannot lift my gaze to the heights of heaven, O Lord. Accept me in repentance, as Thou didst accept the Publican; have mercy on me, O Savior!

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

*Tone 5 (Resurrection)*

**People:** O most precious Virgin, thou art the gate, the temple, the palace, the throne of the King. From thee, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord, appeared to those asleep in darkness. He is the Sun of Righteousness, Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created. Since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him, O all-praised Lady, pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

## *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 4 (Resurrection)*

**People:** When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

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