

Vespers as a Reader's Service

Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)

For use on Saturday evening, March 6, 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 6)

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 6 (Resurrection)

People: Possessing victory over hell, O Christ, since Thou art free among the dead, Thou didst ascend the Cross raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death. Drawing life from Thy light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

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

People: Today Christ tramples on death, for He is risen as He said! Let us all sing this song, for He has granted joy to the world: O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life! O Savior Almighty, have mercy on us!

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

People: Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation? In heaven Thou dwellest! In hell Thou didst trample on death! In the depths of the sea? Even there is Thy hand, O Master! To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray: O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

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

People: In Thy Cross, we glory, O Christ. We sing and glorify Thy Resurrection. For Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee.

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

People: We will always bless the Lord by singing of His Resurrection! for He endured the Cross, trampling down death by death!

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: Glory to Thy might, O Lord, for Thou didst overthrow the prince of death, by Thy Cross renewing us, granting us life and incorruption.

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

Tone 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: O righteous Judge of all mankind, Thou shalt come, enthroned in glory and escorted by angels, to judge the living and the dead. Every man will stand in fear before Thee, trembling at the river of fire flowing past Thy throne, as each one waits to hear the sentence he deserves. On that awesome day have mercy on us as well, O Christ; count us worthy of salvation, for, worthless as we are, we turn to Thee in faith, O compassionate and merciful Lord!

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: The books will be opened, and the works of all men laid bare; the vale of tears will echo with the gnashing of teeth; the sinners will mourn in vain, as they depart to eternal damnation. Thy judgments are just, O Lord Almighty! We beg Thee, O Master full of goodness and compassion, take pity on us who sing to Thee, O most merciful One!

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

People: The trumpet shall sound, and the graves shall be opened; all mankind will arise in trembling; the righteous will rejoice, as they receive their reward, but the wicked will depart to eternal fire with wailing and horror. O Lord of Glory, have mercy on us! Number us with those who love Thee, for Thou alone art good, O Master!

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

People: I shudder in terror when I think of that dreadful day; I weep as I consider the darkness that will never see light: there the worm shall not cease nor the fire be quenched; the pain of those who reject Thee will never end. Save me, Thy most worthless servant, O Righteous Judge, for Thy mercy and compassion are my only hope!

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

Tone 8 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: When the thrones are set in place and the books are opened, then God will take His place on the judgment seat. Oh, what a fearful sight! The angels stand in fear, and the river of fire flows by. What shall we do, who are already condemned by our many sins, as we hear Christ call the righteous to His Father's Kingdom, and send the wicked to eternal damnation? Who among us can bear that terrible verdict? Hasten to us, O Lover of man and King of the universe; grant us the grace of repentance before the end, and have mercy on us!

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

Tone 6 (Resurrection)

People: Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin? Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing? The Only-Begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, but from thee He was ineffably incarnate. God by nature, yet Man for our sake! Not two persons but one, known in two natures. Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady, 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!

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 6 (Resurrection)

People: Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the Angels in heaven sing! Enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

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

People: Destroying the gates of hell, breaking the chains of death, Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God! O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

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

People: Desiring to return us to Paradise, Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb. The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying, "Woe to us, O Savior! How dost Thou deign to descend to death? What place can hold Thy life bearing body? Come to us as Thou didst promise! Take away our wailing and tears!" Then the Angel appeared to them: "Stop your lamentations! Go, proclaim to the Apostles: "The Lord is risen, granting us purification and great mercy!"

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

People: Having been crucified as Thou didst will, by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ, rising on the third day as God in glory, granting the world unending life and great mercy!

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

Tone 8 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: Woe to thee, O my darkened soul! Thy life is stained by depravity and laziness; thy folly makes thee shun all thought of death. How complacent dost thou remain! How canst thou flee the fearful thought of Judgment Day? When wilt thou change thy way of life? On that day thy sins will rise against thee. What will thine answer be then? Thine acts will condemn thee; thy deeds will expose thee. The time is at hand, O my soul. Turn to the good and loving Savior! Beg Him to forgive thy malice and weakness, as thou criest in faith: "I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against Thee, but I know Thy love for all mankind. O good Shepherd, call me to enjoy Thy lasting presence on Thy right hand!"

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 6 (Resurrection)

People: The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

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

Tone 6 (Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion)

People: He Who called thee mother and blessed went up of His own will to suffer, and wishing to search out Adam, He made light shine with the Cross, saying unto the angels: Rejoice with me, for I have found the lost piece of silver. Glory unto Thee, O God, Who hast ordered all things wisely.

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.