

Vespers as a Reader's Service

Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise (Forgiveness Sunday)

For use on Saturday evening, March 13, 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.

People: Fulfilling the prophecy of David, Christ manifested His greatness in Zion to the disciples. He is praised and always glorified, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit. At first as the Word, He was bodiless, but then He took flesh and was slain for our sake. He rose in power as the Lover of man!

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 didst descend into hell as thou didst will, O Christ, overthrowing death as God and rising on the third day as Master! With Thyself Thou didst raise Adam from the bonds of hell and from corruption! Glory to Thy Resurrection, O only Lover of man!

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

Tone 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: The Lord took a handful of dust from the earth. He breathed into it and created me, a living man. He made me lord and master of all things on earth; truly I enjoyed the life of the angels. But Satan the deceiver tempted me in the guise of a serpent; I ate the forbidden fruit and forfeited the glory of God. Now I have been delivered to the earth through death. O my compassionate Lord, call me back to Eden!

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: When the Enemy tempted me, I disobeyed Thy command, O Lord. I exchanged the glory of my mortal body for shame and nakedness. Now I must wear garments of skins and fig-leaves; I am condemned to eat the bread of bitter hardship by the sweat of my brow. The earth is cursed and brings forth thorns and husks for me. O Lord, Thou didst take on flesh from the Virgin in the fullness of time; call me back and restore me to Eden!

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

People: O Paradise, garden of delight and beauty, dwelling-place made perfect by God, unending gladness and eternal joy, the hope of the prophets and the home of the saints, by the music of thy rustling leaves beseech the Creator of all to open the gates which my sins have closed, that I may partake of the Tree of Life and Grace which was given to me in the beginning!

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

People: Adam was exiled from Paradise through disobedience; he was driven from eternal bliss, deceived by the words of Eve; he sat naked and weeping before the gates of Paradise. Let us hasten to enter the season of fasting; let us carefully obey the Gospel commands, that we may be made acceptable to Christ our God, and regain our home in Eden!

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

Tone 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: Adam sat before the gates of Eden, bewailing his nakedness and crying out: "Woe to me! I have listened to wicked deceit; I have lost my glory, and now am driven away! Woe to me! My open-mindedness hath left me naked and confused! No longer will I enjoy thy delights, O Paradise; no longer can I see my Lord, my God and Creator. He formed me from dust, and now to the dust I return! I beg Thee, O compassionate Lord: Have mercy on me who have fallen!"

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!

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 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: Adam ate the forbidden fruit and was driven from Paradise. He sat outside, weeping bitterly: "Woe to me! What will become of me, a worthless man? I disobeyed one command of my Master and lost every good thing! O holy Paradise, planted for me by God, and closed by the weakness of Eve, grant that I may once again gaze on the flowers of thy gardens!" The Savior said to him: "I do not wish the death of My creation! I desire that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, for him who comes to Me I shall never cast out!"

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

Tone 6 (Resurrection)

People: My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord, was born of thee, O most pure Virgin. By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse. Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God! Rejoice, O celestial Joy! Rejoice, O Lady, the protection, intercession and salvation of 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, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 (Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion)

People: As thou, who art sung by all the world, art the treasure-house of our Resurrection, lead out of the pit and abyss of their offenses, those who have put their faith in thee. For thou who before bearing child wast Virgin, and in childbirth and after childbirth hast remained Virgin, hast saved us by giving birth to our salvation.

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.