

Vespers as a Reader's Service

Sunday of Orthodoxy

For use on Saturday evening, March 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 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 shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

People: We glorify Thee, O Lord Who voluntarily didst endure the Cross for our sake. We fall down in worship before Thee, O almighty Savior. Do not cast us away from Thy face but hear us and save us, O Lover of man, by Thy Resurrection!

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 Thee, O Savior Christ, Only-begotten Son of God, who wast nailed to the Cross and resurrected from the tomb on the third day!

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 Lord, Whom nothing can contain or grasp, from all eternity Thou hast shone forth from the Father before the morning star. The Prophets, inspired by the Holy Spirit, foretold that Thou wouldst take flesh and assume the form of a child, from her who is ever-virgin. Thou didst live among men; Thou wast seen by material creation. Through the prayers of the Prophets, O compassionate One, make us worthy to receive Thy light, for we sing praises to Thy glorious Resurrection!

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 Prophets bore the fruit of eternal life; they prepared the way of the Lord. By their words they proclaimed Thee; by their deeds they honored Thee: they would not worship creation instead of Thee, the Creator. As Thy Gospel commands, they renounced the world. They foretold Thy Passion by suffering themselves. Through their prayers, O Lord, enable us to pass over the battlefield of Lent without sin!

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

People: Thou art infinite in Thy divine nature, O Master; in these latter days Thou didst accept the limitations of the flesh. By assuming our body, Thou didst accept all its weaknesses. Therefore we make images of Thy form; we venerate them, having Thee in mind. We fall down before Thee in love; by so doing we follow the tradition of the Apostles and are given the grace of healing.

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

People: Today the Church of Christ receives honorable adornment: the holy icons of Christ our Savior, the Theotokos, and all the Saints. The Church exults in their grace! We lift them up with joy and gladness! We glorify God, the Lover of man, Him Who patiently suffered for our sake!

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

Tone 2 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: Grace and truth have shone forth. The predictions of old have been clearly fulfilled. Behold, the Church adorns herself with the form of Christ incarnate! The icons of the new creation transcend the adornments of the old. As the Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God, so now the icons reveal the presence of the One we adore. By honoring them we will never go astray. It is our glory to fall down and worship Christ in the flesh. Come, O faithful, venerate His image and cry out: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

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!

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 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: Advancing from false doctrine to true faith, illumined with the light of knowledge, let us clap our hands and offer grateful praise to God in song! With due honor let us venerate the holy icons of Christ, of the all-pure Virgin, and of all the saints, depicted on walls or panels or sacred vessels, rejecting the godless teaching of the heretics! For as Saint Basil says: "The honor shown to the image passes to its prototype." By the prayers of Thy pure Mother and of all the saints, we beseech Thee, O Christ our God, to grant us great mercy!

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

Tone 2 (Resurrection)

People: A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles! Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man, who carried in her arms her Creator? This birth is the will of God! Since thou didst carry Him as an infant in thine arms, O most pure one, and since thou possessest motherly boldness before Him, do not cease praying for us who honor thee, that He may be bountiful and 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 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 2 (from the Lenten Triodion)

People: We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: “Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.”

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

Tone 2 (Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion)

People: Thy myst'ry, O Mother of God, is most glorious and passeth all understanding, for stamped with the seal of purity and thy virginity inviolate, thou art acknowledged without doubt to be the Mother who indeed hast given birth to the true God. Do thou beseech Him to save our souls.

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.