

# Vespers as a Reader's Service

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

For use on Saturday evening, March 27, 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 1)***

**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 1 (Resurrection)***

**People:** Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord! Grant us remission of sins, for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

**People:** Encircle Zion and surround her, O ye people! Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead! For He is our God, Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

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

**People:** Come, O ye people, let us hymn and fall down before Christ, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead! For He is our God, Who has delivered the world from the enemy's deceit!

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

**People:** Be glad, O ye heavens! Sound trumpets, O ye foundations of the earth! Sing in gladness, O ye mountains! Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross! Granting life, He has slain death. He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

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

**People:** Let us praise Him Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake. He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead. By Orthodoxy confirm Thy Church, O Christ. Grant peace for our life as the gracious 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:** We stand before Thy life-bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God offering glory to Thine unspeakable compassion. Thou hast accepted the Cross and death, O sinless One to grant resurrection to the world as the Lover of man.

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

***Tone 2 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** What hymns of praise shall we sing to honor the holy bishop? He is the trumpet of theology, the flaming mouthpiece of grace, the chosen vessel of the Spirit, the unshakeable pillar of the Church, the great joy of the inhabited earth, the river of wisdom, the candlestick of the Light, the shining star that has made all creation bright.

**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:** What hymns of praise shall we sing to honor the holy bishop? He is the trumpet of theology, the flaming mouthpiece of grace, the chosen vessel of the Spirit, the unshakeable pillar of the Church, the great joy of the inhabited earth, the river of wisdom, the candlestick of the Light, the shining star that has made all creation bright.

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

**People:** What garlands of song shall we weave for the holy bishop? He is the champion of true worship, the foe of ungodliness, the fervent defender of the faith, the great guide and teacher, the well-tuned harp of the Spirit, the golden tongue, the fountain flowing with healing for the faithful, the great and wonderful Gregory.

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

**People:** How shall we who dwell on earth praise the holy bishop? He is the Church's teacher, the herald of the Uncreated Light, the initiate of the Trinity's heavenly mysteries, the adornment of the monastic life, renowned alike in action and contemplation, the pride of Thessalonica; And now he dwells in heaven with the great and glorious martyr Demetrius, whose relics flow with holy oil.

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

***Tone 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** O thrice-blessed saint, most holy father, good shepherd, disciple of Christ the Chief Shepherd. Like Him thou gavest thy life for thy sheep. By thine intercessions, O God-bearing Father Gregory, may great mercy be granted to our souls!

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

***Tone 1 (Resurrection)***

**People:** Let us praise the Virgin Mary! The gate of heaven, the glory of the world! The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful! She was born of man, yet gave birth to God! She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead! She destroyed the wall of enmity! She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom! Since she is our foundation of faith, our defender is the Lord Whom she bore! Courage! Courage! O ye people of God! For Christ will destroy our enemies since He is all powerful.

***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 1 (Resurrection)*

**People:** We have been freed from sufferings by Thy suffering, O Christ. We have been delivered from corruption by Thy Resurrection. O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

**People:** Let creation rejoice! Let the heavens be glad! Let the nations clap their hands with gladness, for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross. Slaying death, He has given life. He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

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

**People:** As the King of heaven and earth, Thou wast voluntarily crucified in Thy love for man. Hell was angered when it met Thee below. Adam rose seeing Thee, the Creator, under the earth. O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death? Thou didst enlighten the world which cries: O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

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

**People:** The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Thy tomb, bearing myrrh and lamentations. Not finding Thy most pure body, they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder. They told the Apostles: "The Lord is risen, granting to the world great mercy."



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

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

**People:** Thy tongue, watchful in teaching, rings in the ears of our hearts, and awakens the souls of the slothful. Thy words are inspired by God; they are a ladder leading us from earth to heaven. O Gregory, pride of Thessalonica, do not cease to intercede before Christ our God to illumine with His Divine Light those who honor thee!

**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 1 (Resurrection)*

**People:** When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!”

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

## *Tone 8 (St. Gregory Palamas)*

**People:** O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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

## *Tone 8 (Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion)*

**People:** Thou, O good Lord, for our sakes wast born of a Virgin and hast endured crucifixion, despoiling death by death, and, as God, Thou hast shown forth the Resurrection. Despise not the work of Thine hands. Show Thy love for man, O merciful Lord. Accept the intercession made on our behalf by the Theotokos who bore Thee, and, O our Saviour, save Thy despairing people.

# *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 father among the saints Gregory Palamas, 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.