

# Vespers as a Reader's Service

Sunday of the Cross

For use on Saturday evening, April 3, 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 2)*

**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 2 (Resurrection)***

**People:** Come, let us worship the Word of God begotten of the Father before all ages, and incarnate of the Virgin Mary! Having endured the Cross, He was buried as He Himself desired. And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

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

**People:** Christ our Savior nailed to the Cross the bond against us, He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death. We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

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

**People:** With the Archangels let us praise the Resurrection of Christ! He is our Savior, our Redeemer. He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world which He made.

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

**People:** The Angel proclaimed Thee, the crucified and buried Master. He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay! He is risen as He said, for He is almighty." We worship Thee, O only immortal One. Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

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

**People:** By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy the curse of the tree. By Thy burial Thou didst slay the dominion of death. By Thy rising, Thou didst enlighten the race of man. O Benefactor, Christ our God, 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:** The gates of death opened to Thee from fear, O Lord; when the guards of hell saw Thee, they were afraid for Thou didst demolish the gates of brass and smash the iron chains; Thou hadst led us from the darkness and the shadows of death and hadst broken our bonds.

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

*Tone 5 (from the Lenten Triodion)*

**People:** Shine, O Cross of the Lord! Illumine the hearts of those who honor thee! With love inspired by God, we embrace thee, for thou art the only hope of the world. Through thee our tears are wiped away, the snares of death are sprung, and we pass over into everlasting joy. Through the Cross reveal Thy beauty to us, O Lord! Help Thy servants who ask for mercy in faith! Bestow upon us the fruits of abstinence!

**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:** Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross: bright paradise of the Church, and tree of incorruption! Thou hast obtained for us the joy of everlasting glory. Through thee, the hosts of demons are driven out; the choirs of angels are amazed and rejoice; the company of the faithful gathers in celebration. O unconquerable weapon, unbroken stronghold, triumph of Orthodox Christians and pride of priests, by following thee may we witness the Passion and Resurrection of Christ our God!

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

**People:** Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross: invincible triumph of godliness, gate of Paradise, and protection of the faithful! The Cross is the might of the Church, through which corruption is abolished, through which the power of death is crushed. and we are raised from earth to heaven. O invincible weapon, the adversary of demons, the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of ven'erable saints, and the haven of salvation, which grants the world great mercy.

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

**People:** Come, O Adam and Eve, our first father and mother, who fell from divine glory through the envy of the murderer of man! Bitter was the pleasure of the Tree of old; but see, the honored Tree of the Cross draws near! Run with haste and embrace it in joy, crying out with faith: "Thou art our help, O most-precious Cross! We eat thy fruit and gain incorruption! We are restored again to Eden, having received great mercy!"

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

***Tone 3 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** Wishing to restore all men to life, Thou didst accept crucifixion, O Christ our God. Burning with boundless love for man, Thou didst take the quill of the Cross in Thy hand; dipping it in ink of royal crimson, Thou didst sign our release with blood-stained fingers. Though temptations assault us, may we never forsake Thee again! Have mercy on Thy despairing people, O long-suffering Master! Arise and fight Thine enemies in Thine almighty power!

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

***Tone 2 (Resurrection)***

**People:** The shadow of the Law passed when grace came; as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed, so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin. The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame. Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of 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 2 (Resurrection)***

**People:** Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation. Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

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

**People:** By the Tree Thou didst destroy the curse of the Tree, O Savior. By Thy burial Thou didst mortify the majesty of death. Thou hast enlightened our race by Thy Resurrection. O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

**People:** When Thou wast seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ, Thou didst restore the beauty of Thy creatures. The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Thy side with a spear. The Hebrews, not knowing Thy power, asked that Thy tomb might be sealed, but through the mercy of Thy compassions, Thou didst accept the tomb and didst rise on the third day! O Lord, glory to Thee!

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



**People:** O Christ, the Giver of life, for the sake of the dead Thou didst voluntarily endure death, descending into hell as the Mighty One to save those who awaited Thy coming, granting them the life of paradise instead of hell. Grant also to us who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

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

***Tone 4 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** The humble David defeated his enemies by Thy help, O Lord. Now come to the aid of Thine Orthodox people; show us Thy power as Thou didst of old, and our adversaries will know that Thou art God! And we will be victorious, for we hope in Thee. Through the constant intercessions of Thine all-pure Mother, grant us Thy great mercy!

## ***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 2 (Resurrection)*

**People:** When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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

## *Tone 1 (Troparion of the Cross)*

**People:** O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!

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

## *Tone 1 (Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion)*

**People:** At the sound of Gabriel’s voice calling out to thee, Hail, Virgin, the Master of all things became incarnate in thee, thou the holy Tabernacle, as David the righteous said. In bearing thy Creator, thou hast shown thyself to surpass the vastness of the heavens. Glory unto Him Who dwelt in Thee. Glory unto Him Who from thee came forth. Glory unto Him, Who by thy childbirth, hast set us free.

# *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, by the the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, for the sake of the prayers 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.