

# Vespers as a Reader's Service

Sunday of St. John Climacus

For use on Saturday evening, April 10, 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 3)***

**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 3 (Resurrection)***

**People:** By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior, death's dominion has been shattered; the devil's delusion destroyed. The race of man, being saved by faith, always offers Thee a song.

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

**People:** All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord. Paradise has been opened again. All creation, praising Thee, always offers Thee a song.

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

**People:** I glorify the power of the Father and the Son. I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit: the undivided, uncreated Godhead, the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

**People:** We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ, and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection, for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

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

**People:** We praise the Savior incarnate of the Virgin, for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day, granting us great mercy.

**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:** Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings: "Behold! Now I have triumphed! I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out, for I have shattered the gates of death!"

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

**People:** Standing unworthily in Thy most pure house, O Christ God, we offer our evening song, crying from the depths: Thou Who didst enlighten the world, by Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Lover of man, deliver Thy people from the hand of the enemies!

**Reader:** For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

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

**People:** The Lord's praises were always on thy lips, O holy Father John. With deep wisdom thou didst search the Scriptures, which teach us to deny ourselves. Thou didst become rich in the blessings of grace, overthrowing the craftiness of the devil.

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

**People:** Thou didst wash thy soul in a fountain of tears, O most glorious Father John, keeping vigil for God and gaining His mercy. Upborne on the wings of prayer, thou didst fly to divine love and beauty. Now, together with thy fellow soldiers, O holy one, thou dwellest in His spiritual light and unending joy.

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

**People:** On the wings of faith thou didst raise thy mind to God, O holy Father John. Hating the world's confusion and vanity, thou didst take up thy cross and didst follow Him Who sees all things. Thou didst submit thy rebellious flesh to His guidance, through the discipline of self-denial, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

***Tone 5 (from the Lenten Triodion)***

**People:** O holy Father, hearing the Lord's voice in the Gospel, thou didst spurn the riches and glory of the world. Thou didst cry out to all: "Love God and find eternal grace! Set nothing higher than His love; thus, thou wilt find rest with all the saints, when He comes in glory!" Through his prayers guard and save our souls, O Christ!

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

***Tone 3 (Resurrection)***

**People:** How can we not wonder at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother? For without receiving the touch of man, thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin. The Son born of the Father before eternity was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored Lady. He underwent no mingling, no change, no division, but preserved the fullness of each nature. Entreat Him to save the souls, O Lady and Virgin and Mother, of those who confess thee in the Orthodox manner to be the Theotokos.

## *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 3 (Resurrection)*

**People:** The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ, but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection. Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

**People:** Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord, enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation. Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing: O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

**People:** Thou art the changeless God, Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed. Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross. It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience. By descending to hell and rising on the third day, Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

**People:** Thou didst endure death, O Christ, to deliver the race of man from death. Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, raising with thyself those who knew Thee as God and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

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

**People:** Let us honor John! He is an earthly angel and a heavenly man, the adornment of the world, the joy of the virtuous, the glory of ascetics. He was planted in the house of God, and blossomed with the flower of sanctity. He flourished in the desert like a cedar of Lebanon. Through him the sheep of Christ's flock grow in holiness and righteousness.

**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 3 (Resurrection)*

**People:** Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

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

### *Tone 1 (St. John Climacus)*

**People:** O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

**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, of our father among the saints John Climacus, 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.