

THE ORDER FOR READER VESPERS
WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH

SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 2021

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday after Theophany.
St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (4th c.). St. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (601). St. Marcian, Presbyter, of Constantinople (5th c.). Ven. Paul, Abbot of Obnora (Vologdá – 1429). Ven. Macarius, Abbot, of Pisma (14th c.). Bl. Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa (385). Ven. Antipas the Athonite (1882). St. Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Tambov (1894).

THE SERVICE TAKES PLACE IN FRONT OF OUR ICON CORNER

EVERYONE: O, God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me! (3x)

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: Amen. O, Heavenly King, the Comforter the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings 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. (3 times)

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. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

EVERYONE: Our Father, Who art in heaven, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Come, let us worship God, Our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, Our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! Come, Let us worship and fall down before Him!

THE PSALM OF CREATION (Psalm 104/103 LXX)

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who covers thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, who hast laid the beams of thy chambers on the waters, who makes the clouds thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind, who makes the winds thy messengers, fire and flame thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of thy thunder they took to flight.

The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From thy lofty abode thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and fodder for the animals that serve man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.

Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to thee, to give them their food in due season. When thou givest to them, they gather it up; when thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good things. When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed; when thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness and it is night. O Lord how manifold are thy works, 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! (3x)

THE GREAT LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon.

The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

EVERYONE: Amen. Followed by: 'Blessed is the Man...'

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, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

**THE LITTLE LITANY is not said in the
absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:**

READER: Lord have mercy (3x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen. Followed by: "Lord, I call upon Thee..." (Tone 6)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6

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: (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ, since Thou art free among the dead,
Thou didst ascend the Cross raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.// Drawing life
from Thy light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

Reader: (9) *The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Today Christ tramples on death, for He is risen as He said!

Let us all sing this song, for He has granted joy to the world:

O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!// O Savior Almighty, have mercy on us!

Reader: (8) *Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?

In heaven Thou dwest! In hell Thou didst trample on death!

In the depths of the sea? Even there is Thy hand, O Master! To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray:// O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

Reader: (7) *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

In Thy Cross, we glory, O Christ. We sing and glorify Thy Resurrection.

For Thou art our God, // and we know no other than Thee.

Reader: (6) *If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

Our Light that enlightens all comes to be baptized.

The Forerunner sees Him and rejoices in His soul. His hand trembles as he shows Him to the people:

“Behold, the Redeemer of Israel, the One Who frees us from corruption.”// O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Reader: (5) *For Thy name's sake I have waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord. {TONE 2}*

A servant baptized our Redeemer and the coming of the Spirit bore witness to Him. The hosts of Angels saw this and shook with fear. And the voice of the Father was heard from heaven: “The One on Whom the Forerunner lays his hand, He is My beloved Son; I am well pleased in Him.” // O Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Reader: (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord!*

The streams of the Jordan received Thee, their Source, and the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. He Who bowed the heavens now bows His head. The Clay cries aloud to the Potter: “Why dost Thou command me to do what is beyond me; for it is I that should be baptized by Thee?” // O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Reader: (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

O righteous father, holy Gregory: flute played by the breath of the Comforter, filled with the clear melody of godliness, candlestick enlightening many with divine light, herald of truth, foundation of theology, fountain of heavenly doctrine, torrent of teaching sweet as honey, lyre, playing songs written by God, gladdening the hearts of the faithful! Wise one, pray without ceasing to Christ, Who was baptized in the streams of Jordan for the renewal of the world, // that He may save our souls!

Reader: (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

O righteous Father, all-praised Gregory, battle axe hewing down the assaults of heresy, two-edged sword of the Comforter, dagger piercing the heart of false doctrine, fire consuming the brushwood of error, winnowing fan able to separate the chaff of vanities from the kernel of doctrine, ruler measuring the way to salvation with precision, pray without ceasing to Christ, Who was baptized in the streams of Jordan for the renewal of the world, // that He may save our souls!

Reader: (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

O righteous Father, all-blessed Gregory, mouth that pours out blessed words, drawing them from the inexhaustible and divine wells of salvation,
expounding all words of prayer; rule that directs to virtue; thou didst become radiant by contemplation of things divine, illuminated by the brightness of the uncreated Trinity, Whose invincible champion thou didst become. O venerable Father, pray without ceasing to Christ,
Who refashioned the world in the streams of the Jordan,// that He may save our souls!

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

O Gregory of Nyssa, thou wast adorned with wise words and valiant deeds. Thou didst gladden the faithful with thy God-proclaiming voice;
and didst enlighten us with knowledge explaining the unity of the Trinity.
Thou didst defeat alien teachings with true doctrine; establishing the faith with strength. And now thou dost stand before Christ with His bodiless servants:// pray that He may grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

Reader: Now and ever in the 6th Tone: Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin? Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing? The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, but from thee He was ineffably incarnate. God by nature, yet Man for our sake, not two persons, but one known in two natures. Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,// to have mercy on our souls!

CHOIR: 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 Father, Son and Holy Spirit God. 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 glorifies Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

READER: The evening prokeimenon is in the sixth tone: The Lord is King! He is robed in Majesty!

CHOIR: The Lord is King! He is robed in Majesty!

READER: The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength!

CHOIR: The Lord is King! He is robed in Majesty!

READER: For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved!

CHOIR: The Lord is King! He is robed in Majesty!

READER: Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

CHOIR: The Lord is King! He is robed in Majesty!

READER: The Lord is King!

CHOIR: He is robed in Majesty!

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

READER: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name for ever.

Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy commandments.

Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Thy mercy endures forever, O Lord! Do not despise the works of Thy hands!

To Thee belongs worship, to Thee belongs praise, to Thee belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION is not said in the absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

Followed by the Aposticha.

Aposticha - Resurrection Tone 6

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the Angels in heaven sing!

Enable us on earth// to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Destroying the gates of hell, breaking the chains of death,

Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God!//

O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Desiring to return us to Paradise, Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb. The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying, "Woe to us, O Savior! How dost Thou deign to descend to death?

What place can hold Thy life bearing body? Come to us as Thou didst promise! Take away our wailing and tears!" Then the Angel appeared to them: "Stop your lamentations! Go, proclaim to the Apostles: 'The Lord is risen,// granting us purification and great mercy!'"

V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

Having been crucified as Thou didst will, by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ, rising on the third day as God in glory,// granting the world unending life and great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 4 (for St. Gregory)

O God-revealing Gregory, thou didst pass thy life in godliness.
Thou didst make thine actions radiant through contemplation;
desiring divine wisdom for thy love; thou wast enriched with graces flowing from the Spirit. Thy
words drip with sweetness, like honey from the comb; and thou dost gladden the Church of God with
thy divine thoughts. Now, as thou dost gaze upon the Lord in heaven, // never cease to pray for us
who honor thy memory!

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

Tone 4 (for the Feast)

By fire and the Spirit, Thou dost wash away the sin of the world.
When the Baptist saw Thee coming, he was afraid. He trembled and cried out, saying: "I dare not hold
Thy spotless head.//
Sanctify me with Thine Epiphany, O Master Who lovest mankind!"

After which is sung The Prayer of St. Simeon: 'Lord, now lettest...'

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen
Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of Thy people Israel.

READER: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

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. Lord, cleanse from our sins. Master, pardon our
transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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 heaven, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

TROPAR FOR THE RESURRECTION, TONE 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

TROPAR FOR THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, TONE 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

TROPAR FOR THE THEOTOKOS, TONE 4

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, // for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

READER: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond than the Seraphim, without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we magnify You.

CHOIR: 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, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Lord, Bless!

READER: May He, Who deigned to be baptized by John in The Jordan for us men and for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the Power of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross, through the protection of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, through the prayers of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, through the prayers of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, through the Prayers of all the North American Saints, through the prayers of _____ the patron of this Holy Temple, of St. Gregory of Nyssa whom we commemorate today, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

(The faithful now come up and venerate the Precious Cross and Icons in our Icon Corner.)

READER: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

CHOIR: Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.