

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2020

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7. Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus, Martyr Apphia, wife of Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and Onesimus, disciple of St. Paul (1st c.). Martyrdom of St. Michael, Prince of Tver’ (1318). Rt. Blv. Yaropolk, in Baptism Peter, Prince of Vladimir in Volyn’ (1086). Martyrs Cecilia, Valerian, Tiburtius, and Maximus, at Rome (ca. 230). Martyr Procopius the Reader, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303). Martyr Menignus at Parium (250). St. Agabbas of Syria (5th c.). Righteous Michael the Soldier, of Bulgaria (866). Ven. Callistus Xanthopoulos (Mt. Athos – 1363).

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 7)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 7

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!*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, Who destroyed the dominion of death! Let us sing to Him with the
bodiless hosts, for He enlightened the race of man!// O our Maker and Savior, glory to Thee!

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

Thou didst endure the Cross and burial for our sake. By Thy death, Thou didst destroy death as God. We fall down before Thy Resurrection on the third day, // O Savior, glory to Thee!

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

Thou wast held by lawless men, O Christ, but to me, Thou art God, and I am not ashamed. Thou wast smitten on the cheek, but I do not deny Thee. Thou wast nailed to the Cross and I do not conceal it, for I glory in Thy Resurrection: Thy death is my life. // O almighty Lord and Lover of man, glory to Thee!

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

When the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Maker, they were amazed and sang the angelic praise. This is the glory of the Church. This is the richness of the Kingdom. // O Lord, crucified for our sake, glory to Thee!

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

Oh, most glorious wonder! The ineffable that is come to pass is now this day prefigured beforehand. That which is apprehended spiritually is seen in visible figures, for she who will shine the divine Light to the world is led as a bride to the Temple where God dwells. Let us praise her as the ever-shining temple // of the Godhead of Christ, the Giver of Light!

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.*

The wise Joachim, together with Anna, have brought the godly maiden, the Virgin Mary, as a truly acceptable first fruit to Him Who had given her to them as a divine fruit, through Whom the debt of grief has been driven away. Let us praise her in songs and devoutly rejoice, // for she is become the provider of joy to all the world!

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

Come, let us now mystically gather together and, enlightened by the lamps of faith, begin the song of the Virgin's procession! She enters the Temple of God in glory, having been betrothed in advance by the Spirit. Let us all celebrate her joyous festival in a godly manner, // rejoicing in her entrance into the Temple!

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

As a branch of the Vine of Life, O glorious Philemon, thou hast distilled a wine of perfect divine knowledge to souls in distress, and hast gladdened the hearts made sullen by the darkness of error, and enshrouded by the gloomy madness of idolatry. // We joyfully celebrate the feast of thy divinely-radiant memory.

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

Gaza honors thee, O blessed Apostle, having seen the light of perfect knowledge through thee, and the city of the Colossians, having thy divine body as a treasure, harvests the healings and the grace that always pours forth abundantly. Therefore, it keeps thy commemoration, // as it is preserved from dangers by thine intercession, O glorious Philemon.

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

In faith let us praise the wise hierarch Archippus, together with the modest Apphia! Let us sing hymns honoring the sacred heralds of God, Philemon and Onesimus, the venerable teachers who, by their teaching, condemned the falsehood of polytheism and planted the knowledge of Truth!// Let us devoutly celebrate their memory!

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

Today, let heaven above rejoice, and let the clouds rain down gladness at the mighty and exceeding marvelous works of our God. For behold, the Gate that looks towards the east, who was born from a barren and childless woman according to the promise and dedicated to God as His dwelling place, is today brought to the Temple as an offering without blemish. Let David be glad, striking his harp. For he says: “Virgins shall be brought to the King after her, her companions will be brought to Him”; that she may be raised within God’s tabernacle, His place of atonement, to become the dwelling of Him Who was begotten of the Father without change before the ages// for the salvation of our souls.

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

No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing, for the order of nature was overruled by God. Thou wast revealed to be a Mother above nature, for thou didst remain a Virgin beyond reason and understanding. Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos! The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin! Knowing thee to be the Mother of God, devoutly we pray to thee:// “Beseech Him to save 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 art 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 7

As the Savior of the world Thou didst arise from the tomb.

As God Thou didst resurrect the race of man with Thy flesh.//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Come, let us worship the One Who rose from the dead, and enlightened all creation! By His death, He saved us from the torments of hell.// By His Resurrection He has granted us eternal life and great mercy.

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

Thou didst descend into hell, capturing death, O Christ. In three days Thou didst rise again, resurrecting us who glorify Thy Resurrection,// O Lord and Lover of man.

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

When Thou wast placed in the tomb as one asleep, the sight was great and awesome. But when Thou didst rise on the third day as almighty God, Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself.// Glory to Thy Resurrection, only Lover of man!

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

Today the immaculate Virgin is brought to the Temple to be the dwelling place of God, the Lord of all, Who sustains our whole life. Today the most pure Sanctuary is brought into the Holy of Holies, like a heifer three years old. To her let us cry out like the angel:// “Rejoice, thou who alone art blessed among women!”

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.

Troparion for The Resurrection - Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great mercy.

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

Troparion for the Feast of The Theotokos - Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment// of the Creator's dispensation!"

Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion for The Theotokos - Tone 4

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb,//
for you have 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 Christ our True God, through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Feast of whose Entrance Into the Temple we celebrate, 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, through the prayers of the Holy Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus 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.