

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

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – Tone 4. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.

Saint Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage (19th c.). Ven. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia (9th c.). St. Eustathius (Eustace), Archbishop of Antioch (377). St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the Black Sea (802-811). "KOZEL'SHCHANSKAYA" Icon of the Mother of God (1881).

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 4)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

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!*

We glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God, by always honoring Thy life-creating Cross; by it Thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man, O almighty One. By it Thou hast renewed our entrance to heaven,// for Thou art good and the Lover of man.

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

Thou didst loose the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior, by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross. By descending to hell, O almighty God, Thou didst break the bonds of death. Therefore, we adore Thy Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy:// "Glory to Thee, O all-powerful Lord!"

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

Thou didst smash the gates of hell, O Lord, and by Thy death Thou didst demolish the kingdom of death. Thou didst deliver the race of men from corruption,// granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

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

Come, O people, let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day!

By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell. By it, we have received life and incorruption. Save us by Thy Resurrection!//

O Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to Thee!

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

Angels and men sing of Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Savior.

By it, the ends of the earth have been illuminated. By it we have been delivered from bondage to the Enemy. Save us by Thy Resurrection!//

O life-creating and almighty Savior, 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.*

Thou hast shattered the gates of brass and destroyed the chains of death, O Christ God. Thou hast raised the fallen human race.//

O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to Thee!

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

O Lord, Thy begetting from the Father is timeless and everlasting.

Thine incarnation from the Virgin is beyond words and understanding.

Thy descent into hell is terrible for the devil and his angels.

Thou hast trampled on death, rising on the third day,//

and granting men incorruption and great mercy.

Reader: (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. {TONE 1}*

Brothers, let us not pray like the Pharisee! He who exalts himself will be humbled. Let us prepare to abase ourselves by fasting;

let us cry aloud with the voice of the Publican:// "O God, forgive us sinners!"

Reader: (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples! {TONE 1}

Brothers, let us not pray like the Pharisee! He who exalts himself will be humbled. Let us prepare to abase ourselves by fasting;
let us cry aloud with the voice of the Publican:// “O God, forgive us sinner!”

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

The Pharisee went up to the temple with a proud and empty heart;
the Publican bowed himself in repentance. They both stood before Thee, O Master: the one, through boasting, lost his reward, but the other, with tears and sighs, won Thy blessing: Strengthen me, O Christ our God, as I weep in Thy presence,// since Thou art the Lover of man!

Reader: Glory in the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

I know the value of tears, O almighty Lord: they delivered Hezekiah from the gates of death, and rescued the harlot from repeated sins.

Tears justified the Publican instead of the Pharisee. I pray Thee, O Lord://
“Number me with the former, and have mercy on me!”

Reader: Now and ever The Dogmatic is in the 4th Tone: Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord through thee, O Virgin. He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in thee: “At Thy right hand stood the Queen,” Thy Mother, the mediatrix of life, since God was freely born of her without a father. He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion, so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers.//

Christ Who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

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 4

By ascending the Cross, O Lord, Thou hast annulled our ancestral curse. By descending to hell, Thou hast freed the eternal prisoners, granting incorruption to the human race.// Therefore in songs we glorify Thy life-creating and saving Resurrection.

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

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord, Thou didst shake all of creation. By being laid in the tomb Thou hast raised those who dwelt in the tombs, granting life and incorruption to the human race.// Therefore in songs we glorify Thy rising on the third day.

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

The lawless people, O Christ, handed Thee over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified, thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.

But voluntarily Thou didst endure burial, rising by Thy own power on the third day as God,// granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

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

With tears the women reached Thy tomb, searching for Thee, but not finding Thee. They wept with wailing and lamented: "Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all, how wast Thou stolen? What place can hold Thy life-bearing body?" An Angel replied to them: "Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,// granting us joy as the only compassionate One!"

Glory in the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

The weight of my transgressions burdens mine eyes: I cannot lift my gaze to the heights of heaven, O Lord. Accept me in repentance, as Thou didst accept the Publican;// have mercy on me, O Savior!

Now and ever The Theotokion in the 5th Tone: Now and Ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most precious Virgin, thou art the gate, the temple, the palace, the throne of the King. From thee, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord, appeared to those asleep in darkness. He is the Sun of Righteousness, Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created. Since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him, O all-praised Lady,// pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

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 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, 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 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 He, Who rose from the dead,, 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,, through the prayers of Saint Makarios of Glinsk Hermitage, Ven. Timothy of Symbola in Bithynia St. Eustathius (Eustace), Archbishop of Antioch, St. George, Bishop of Amastris on the Black Sea 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.