

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

**SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021**

**3rd Sunday of Pascha - Holy Myrrhbearing Women**

Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great (368). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Perekop (Novgorod, 1545), Ven. Cassian (1537) and Lavrentii (Laurence) (1548), Abbots of Konel' (Vologda). St. Alexander, Archbishop of Jerusalem (213-250). Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, at Lucania (ca. 303). Bl. Child Musa of Rome (5th c.). St. George, Bishop of Mitylene (9th c.). New Martyr Nicholas of Metsovo (17th c.). Saint Brendan the Navigator

**\*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.

EVERYONE: Amen. "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!" (3x)

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 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)

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**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 2)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

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

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

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

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

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:** (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 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 hast led us from the darkness and shadows of death, and hast broken our bonds.

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

Let us come and worship in the house of the Lord, singing the hymn of salvation: Cleanse our sins, for Thou wast crucified and raised from the dead,// and art in the bosom of the Father!

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

Early in the morning, the myrrhbearing women brought spices to the tomb of the Lord. They found the stone unexpectedly rolled away, and they asked among themselves: "Where are the seals of the tomb? Where are Pilate's guards?" The radiant Angel came to the wondering women and proclaimed to them: "Why seek ye with tears the Life Who gives life to the human race? Christ our God has risen from the dead as almighty,// granting us incorruption, life, enlightenment, and great mercy!"

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

O women disciples, why do ye mingle myrrh with your tears? The stone is gone; the tomb is empty. Behold, corruption destroyed by life! The seals witness that the guards of the godless have watched in vain. Mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God. Hell is wailing. Go with joy, and proclaim to the Apostles: "Christ has slain death as the first-born of the dead.// He awaits you in Galilee!"

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

The Myrrhbearers came early to Thy tomb, O Christ, seeking Thee to anoint Thy most pure Body. Enlightened by the Angel's words, they proclaimed joyous tidings to the Apostles: "The Leader of our salvation has been raised; He has captured death,// granting the world eternal life 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. The Myrrhbearing Women reached Thy tomb and saw the seals of the tomb broken. Not finding Thy most pure body, they lamented, saying: "Who has stolen our hope? Who has taken the dead One, naked and anointed, the sole consolation of His Mother? How can the Life of the dead have died? How can the Capturer of hell have been buried?// But arise in three days as Thou didst say, O Savior, and save our souls!"

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

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.

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**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**

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

*(Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses)*

*v: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!*

Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us: a new and holy Pascha, a mystical Pascha, a Pascha worthy of veneration, a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer, a blameless Pascha, a great Pascha, a Pascha of the faithful, a Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise, a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

*v: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!*

Come from that scene, O women bearers of glad tidings, and say to Zion: "Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, of Christ's Resurrection! Exult and be glad, and rejoice, O Jerusalem, seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom in procession!"

*v: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!*

The myrrh-bearing women, at the break of dawn, drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver. There they found an Angel sitting upon the stone. He greeted them with these words: "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorrupt amid corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples!"

*v: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Pascha of beauty, the Pascha of the Lord, A Pascha worthy of honor has dawned for us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously! Pascha, ransom from affliction! For today, as from a bridal chamber, Christ has shown forth from the tomb, and filled the women with joy saying: "Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!"

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

Joseph, together with Nicodemus, took Thee down from the Tree, Who clothest Thyself with light as with a garment. He gazed on Thy body – dead, naked, and unburied, and in grief and tender compassion he lamented: “Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus! A short while ago, the sun beheld Thee hanging on the Cross, and it hid itself in darkness. The earth quaked in fear at the sight. The veil of the Temple was torn in two. Lo, now I see Thee willingly submit to death for our sake. How shall I bury Thee, O my God? How can I wrap Thee in a shroud? How can I touch Thy most pure body with my hands? What songs can I sing for Thine exodus, O compassionate One? I magnify Thy Passion. I glorify Thy burial, and Thy holy Resurrection, crying, O Lord, glory to Thee!”

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

This is the day of resurrection! Let us be illuminated by the feast! Let us embrace each other! Let us call “Brothers” even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*once*)

**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 2)**

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!”

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

**TROPARION FOR THE PENTECOSTARION (Tone 2)**

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, // granting the world great mercy.

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

**TROPARION FOR THE PENTECOSTARION (Tone 2)**

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! So proclaim: 'The Lord is risen, // granting the world great mercy.'"

READER: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of thy Son!

CHOIR: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!" (3x)

READER: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! 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 The Great through the prayers of The Holy Myrrhbearing Women Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

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

READER: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death

CHOIR: and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!