

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2021

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Monastic Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New of Mt. St. Auxentius, Martyrs Basil, Stephen, two Gregories, John, Andrew, Peter, Anna, and many others (767). Martyr Irenarchus and Seven Women Martyrs at Sebaste (303). St. Theodore, Archbishop of Rostov (1394). Martyrs Timothy and Theodore – Bishops; Peter, John, Sergius, Theodore, and Nikēphóros – Presbyters; Basil and Thomas – Deacons; Hierotheus, David, Chariton, Socrates, Comasius, and Eusebius – Monks; and Etymasius, at Tiberiopolis

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: *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

Reader: *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: *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: *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 dweldest! 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: *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: *If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

We will always bless the Lord by singing of His Resurrection!
For He endured the Cross, // trampling down death by death.

Reader: *For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Glory to Thy might, O Lord, for Thou didst overthrow the prince of death,
by Thy Cross renewing us, // granting us life and incorruption.

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

Thou didst offer thyself fully to the Master from thy youth,
transcending the flesh and worldly love. Thou wast an excellent monk, O most holy Stephen, and a vessel of the
Spirit of God. Thou wast imprisoned in a narrow hut, O blessed one, but thou gavest thy mind wings to fly to the
heavens to behold the ineffable beauty of Christ our King and God. // Venerating His image, thou didst suffer
greatly.

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

Thou didst offer thyself fully to the Master from thy youth,
transcending the flesh and worldly love. Thou wast an excellent monk, O most holy Stephen, and a vessel of the
Spirit of God. Thou wast imprisoned in a narrow hut, O blessed one, but thou gavest thy mind wings to fly to the
heavens to behold the ineffable beauty of Christ our King and God. // Venerating His image, thou didst suffer
greatly.

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

Imprisoned in a dungeon, thou didst fast for forty days like the Master,
preparing thyself for suffering, O holy Stephen, confirmation of monks and adornment of martyrs. Therefore,
those who had no mercy,
fell upon thee like wild beasts, dragging thee like an innocent lamb.
They unjustly tore thy body to pieces and cast thee out with the evildoers.
Thou didst suffer greatly, // and now thou prayest boldly on behalf of our souls.

Reader: *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Evil men, subject to the iniquity of the lawless emperor, stoned thee without pity, O venerable one, like the honored Protomartyr Stephen.

They crushed thy holy head, O Father, dragging thee most savagely through the streets, causing thy bowels to spill forth, O most blessed one, showing thee no mercy even after thou wast dead. How great was thy courage! How great were thy fortitude and endurance!//

By them, O Stephen, thou hast received an unfading crown.

Reader: *Glory in the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

Like the great prophet Samuel, O Stephen, thou wast dedicated to God while yet an infant. Having ascended the mountain, thou wast well-pleasing to Him in the monastic life. Thou didst manfully strip thyself for the contest, enduring banishment and tribulation with patience.

Thou didst bear fetters and imprisonment for His image. Thou wast dragged and beaten; thou wast stoned, and thy head was crushed.

Therefore thou wast crowned by Christ our God. Entreat Him that those who celebrate thine honorable memory may be delivered from sufferings, temptations and the tribulation to come,// and that our souls may be saved!

Reader: *Now and Ever The Dogmatic in the same 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 incarate. 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 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 Stikhera

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

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

Reader: *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!

Reader: *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!'"

Reader: *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!

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

O venerable Father, greatly-suffering Stephen, thou didst preserve unharmed that which is according to the image as a manful champion of Christ's image, not fearing the threats of Coprónymus. Indeed, thou didst slay him with the sword of the Spirit. Therefore, since thou hast acquired boldness before God,// save thy flock from all heresies!

Reader: *Now and Ever The Theotokion in the same Tone: Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

O unwedded Virgin, who ineffably didst conceive God in the flesh,
O Mother of God most high, accept the cries of thy servants, O blameless one! Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!// Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

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 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. now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hymn to 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 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, of the Monastic Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New of Mt. St. Auxentius 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: 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!