

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021

**18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1.** Martyr Arethas and 4,299 Martyrs with him (523). Ven. Arethus (12th c.), Sisoë (13th c.), and Theóphil (Theophilus) – (12th-13th c.), Recluses, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves). Bl. Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia (ca. 553-555). Martyr Syncletica and her two daughters (6th c.). St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Constantinople (1311). “Joy of All Who Sorrow” Icon of the Mother of God (1688).

**\*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 1)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1

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.*

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord! Grant us remission of sins,//  
for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

**Reader:** *The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Encircle Zion and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!

For He is our God,// Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

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

Come, O people, let us hymn and fall down before Christ,  
glorifying His Resurrection from the dead! For He is our God, //  
Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

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

Be glad, O heavens! Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!  
Sing in gladness, O mountains! Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross! Granting life, He  
has slain death. // He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

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

Let us praise Him Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake.  
He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead. By Orthodoxy confirm Thy Church, O Christ. //  
Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of man.

**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.*

We stand before Thy life-bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God,  
offering glory to Thine ineffable compassion. Thou hast accepted the Cross and death, O sinless  
One // to grant Resurrection to the world as the Lover of man.

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

Let us praise the Word, co-eternal with the Father.  
He ineffably came forth from the virginal womb. He freely accepted the Cross and death for our sake.  
He was raised in glory. //  
Glory to Thee, O life-giving Lord, the Savior of our souls!

**Reader:** *In the 1st Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Thou didst set thy courage, O most praised Martyr Arethas,  
against the savagery of evil men. By the grace of God, thou wast shown to be victorious. O glorious  
one, thou didst bring to Christ //  
a choir of martyrs formed by soldiers of all ages and races.

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

Thou didst form a beautiful choir, O most glorious Arethas,  
of thy holy fellow martyrs. Thou didst struggle together with them, completing the good race and the  
good fight of thy courageous contest. //  
Therefore entreat Christ that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy!

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

The godly-minded virgin martyrs, enkindled by the love of Christ, did not heed the weakness of their nature. Manifestly strengthened by the power of God they trampled down the delusion of the enemy. They were not afraid of the pain of torture// and did not fear the fiery furnace.

**Reader:** *Glory in the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

Today, united in mind and singing hymns of praise, O faithful, let us honor the glorious chief shepherd Arethas and his companions. When he denounced the evil one and shed his blood in confession of Christ, a pillar of fire consumed the face of the earth in reproof of the enemy's ungodliness. Therefore, O Christ God, as Thou didst strengthen the athletes for Thy glory, by the prayers of Thy saints, preserve us also from temptations and tribulations,// for Thou art the Master of all!

**Reader:** *Now and Ever The Dogmatic in the 1st Tone: Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary! The gate of heaven, the glory of the world! The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful! She was born of man, yet gave birth to God! She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead! She destroyed the wall of enmity! She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom! Since she is our foundation of faith, our defender is the Lord Whom she bore! Courage! Courage! O People of God! For Christ will destroy our enemies// since He is all powerful.

**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 Stikhera

We have been freed from sufferings by Thy suffering, O Christ.  
We have been delivered from corruption by Thy Resurrection.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Let creation rejoice! Let the heavens be glad! Let the nations clap their hands with gladness, for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross. Slaying death, He has given life.//He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

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

As King of heaven and earth, Thou wast voluntarily crucified in Thy love for man. Hell was angered when it met Thee below. Adam rose seeing Thee, the Creator, under the earth. O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death? Thou didst enlighten the world which cries:// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** *Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Thy tomb, bearing myrrh and lamenting. Not finding Thy most pure body, they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder. They told the Apostles:// “The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

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

Understanding beforehand the wicked and evil plan of unbelieving men, you strove to suffer for Christ with a bold spirit. You struggled for Him, Who in days of old in the time of the Law, delivered out of Egypt and led through the wilderness those who condemned Him to the Cross. So now also, those who were infected with unbelief went from words to deeds as they condemned you to the fire. You suffered with strong patience and unity of mind, showing yourselves to be great among martyrs. Since you have boldness before God, // entreat Him that our souls may be delivered from sins!

**Reader:** *Now and Ever The Dogmatic in the 8th 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 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

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

#### **Troparion for The Holy Martyr Arethas – Tone 1**

Through the sufferings which Thy holy martyrs Arethas and his companions endured for Thy sake, O Lord, we beseech Thee, O Lover of ^mankind:// "Heal all of our infirmities!"

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

#### **Troparion 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 Holy Martyr Arethas and 4,299 Martyrs with him whom we commemorate today, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, 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!