

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Theotokos.

Sunday before Elevation. Hieromartyr Autonomus, Bishop in Italy (313). Ven. Vassian (Bassian) of Tiksnensk (Vologdá – 1624). Translation of the Relics of Righteous Simeon of Verkhotúr'e (1704). Martyr Julian of Galatia and forty Martyrs with him (4th c.). Hieromartyr Theodore of Alexandria. St. Coronatus, Bishop of Nicomedia (3rd c.). Ven. Afanásy of Vysótsk, Wonderworker of Serpukhóv

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 3)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

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.*

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior, death's dominion has been shattered; the devil's delusion destroyed. The race of man, being saved by faith, // always offers Thee a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord. Paradise has been opened again. All creation, praising Thee, // always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son. I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit: the undivided, uncreated Godhead, // the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ, and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection, // for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

Reader: *In the 6th Tone: If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones, has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth. He Who in wisdom established the heavens has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind; for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us, even His Mother. O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless, // O Lord, glory to Thee!

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.*

This is the day of the Lord! Rejoice, O peoples, for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life, has come forth from the womb! The gate that faces the East is born and awaits the entry of the Great Priest. She alone admits Christ into the world // for the salvation of our souls.

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

Although by God's will other barren women have brought forth famous offspring, yet, of all those children Mary shines most brightly, as is fitting to God. For she herself was born wondrously of a barren mother, and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all, in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed. She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God, Who passed through this gate yet kept it closed, and, having ordered all things in His own wisdom, // has wrought salvation for all mankind.

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

Today the gates of barrenness are opened, and the virgin gate of God comes forth. Today grace begins to bear its first fruit, revealing to the world the Mother of God. Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens// for the salvation of our souls.

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

Today is the prelude of universal joy; today the winds blow that herald salvation, and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled; for the barren woman is revealed as the mother of her who remained a virgin after giving birth to the Creator. From her the One Who is God by nature takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own; and works salvation through the flesh for those who have gone astray.// He is Christ, the Lover of man and the Redeemer of our souls.

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

Today barren Anna gives birth to the handmaid of God, who was chosen from all generations to become the abode of the King and Creator of all, Christ our God in fulfillment of the divine plan. Through her we earth-born have been fashioned anew// and restored from corruption to life eternal.

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

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones, has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth. He Who in wisdom established the heavens has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind; for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us, even His Mother. O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless,// O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader: *Now and ever The Dogmatic is in the 3rd Tone: Now and Ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

How can we not wonder at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man, thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored Lady. He underwent no mingling, no change, no division, but preserved the fullness of each nature. Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother, to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee// to be the 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 Stikhera

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Thou art the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.
Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//
Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,
raising with Thyself those who knew Thee as God//
and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

Reader: *Glory, Now and Ever, The Theotokion is in the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Come, all you faithful, let us run to the Virgin! For, behold, today she is born, who was foreordained before the womb, as the Mother of our God, the treasure of virginity, the rod of Aaron that budded, springing from the root of Jesse, the preaching of the Prophets, the offspring of righteous Joachim and Anna. She is born and with her the world is renewed. She comes from the womb and the Church is

adorned in her majesty. She is the holy temple, the vessel of the Godhead, the virgin instrument and bridal chamber of the King, in which has come to pass the strange mystery of the union of the natures that came together in Christ.// Worshiping Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

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 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

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

Troparion for The Feast of The Nativity of The Theotokos – Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from You, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing.// By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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 whose Nativity 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, of the holy Hieromartyr Autonomus, Bishop in Italy 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!