

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

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2020

**EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**

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

Today, let us dance, O faithful, singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns  
and honoring His sanctified Tabernacle, the living Ark,

that contained the Word Who cannot be contained; for in wondrous fashion she is offered to the Lord  
as a young child in the flesh, and Zachariah, the great High Priest, joyfully receives her// as the  
dwelling place of God.

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

Today, let us dance, O faithful, singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns and honoring His sanctified Tabernacle, the living Ark, that contained the Word Who cannot be contained; for in wondrous fashion she is offered to the Lord as a young child in the flesh, and Zachariah, the great High Priest, joyfully receives her// as the dwelling place of God.

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

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God, the pure Maiden who alone is blessed among women, is offered in the Temple of the Law that she may make her dwelling in the Holy Place. Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit, and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord,// chanting psalms, and honoring His Mother.

**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 art the preaching of the prophets, O Virgin Mother of God; the glory of the apostles and the boast of martyrs, and the renewal of all the earth-born, for through thee, we are reconciled to God. Therefore, being saved by thine intercessions, we honor thy coming into the Temple of the Lord; and with the angel we all cry out to thee in song:// “Rejoice, O all-revered Lady!”

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

Led by the Holy Spirit, the holy Maiden without blemish is brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies, where she is fed by an angel. She is truly the most holy Temple of our holy God, Who has made all things holy by dwelling in her,// and has made God-like the fallen nature of mortals.

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

Led by the Holy Spirit, the holy Maiden without blemish is brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies, where she is fed by an angel. She is truly the most holy Temple of our holy God, Who has made all things holy by dwelling in her,// and has made God-like the fallen nature of mortals.

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

The young girls rejoice today, and with lamps in hand they go before the spiritual Lamp, as she is led with reverence into the Holy of Holies.

They foreshadow the Brightness past telling Who is to shine forth from her// and enlighten by the Spirit those who sat in the darkness of ignorance.

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

Anna the all-praised cried out rejoicing:

“Receive, O Zachariah, her whom God’s prophets proclaimed in the Spirit, and bring her into the holy Temple, there to be brought up in reverence, that she may become the divine throne of the Master of all, // His palace and resting place and dwelling filled with light!”

**Reader:** *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.* After thy birth, O Lady and Bride of God, thou camest to the Temple of the Lord to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, since thou thyself art holy. And Gabriel then was sent to thee, all-blameless Maiden, to bring thee food. All in heaven were amazed to see how the Holy Spirit had made His abode in thee. Therefore, O spotless and undefiled Mother of God, glorified in heaven and on earth, // save the human race!

---

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Tone:

Thou, O God, art my helper and Thy mercy shall go before me.

CHOIR: Thou, O God, art my helper and Thy mercy shall go before me.

READER: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

CHOIR: *Save me, O God, by Thy name and judge me by Thy strength.*

READER: Thou, O God, art my helper.

CHOIR: And Thy mercy shall go before me.

### THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (#1)

**Reader:** The Reading is from Exodus.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “On the first day of the first month you shall set up the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and you shall put in it the Ark and cover it with the veil. You shall bring in the table and the lampstand; and you shall set there a golden altar to burn incense before the Ark of the Testimony. And you shall put a covering on the door of the tabernacle of the Testimony.

“Then you shall take the oil of anointing and anoint the Tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its vessels; and it shall be holy. And you shall consecrate the Altar of Burnt Offerings; it shall be most holy.”

And Moses did all that the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel had commanded him. And a cloud covered the Tabernacle of the Testimony and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the Tabernacle of the Testimony, because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (#2)

**Reader:** The Reading is from The Book of Kings.

And it came to pass when Solomon had finished building the House of the Lord, he assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Zion. And the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tabernacle of the Testimony.

And the King and all Israel went before the Ark. And the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Oracle of the Temple, into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the Ark so that the cherubim made a covering above the Ark and its holy things above. There was nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of the Covenant which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord had made a Covenant. And when the priests came out from the holy place, a cloud filled the house. And the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord God Almighty filled the house.

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (#3)

**Reader:** The Reading is from The Prophecy of Ezekiel.

‘When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you,’ says the Lord God.” Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut.

And the Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. “As for the prince, because he is the prince, he may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way.”

Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord; and I fell on my face.

**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 Aposticha is sung in Resurrection Tone 4\*

Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish, as she enters the house of God, there to be reared in reverence. Zachariah cried to her in amazement: "O Gate of the Lord, to thee I open the gates of the Temple; rejoice and go around it dancing. For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel will now come to dwell openly in our midst, and that from thee shall be born God the Word, // Who grants the world His great mercy!"

*v: Virgins shall be brought to the King after her; her companions shall be brought to Thee.*

Anna, the namesake of grace, joyfully brings into the Temple of God the pure and ever-Virgin who is full of grace, and calls young girls to go before her with lamps in hand. She says: "Go, child, to Him Who gave thee to me; to be an offering and a sweet-smelling incense.  
Go into the inner sanctuary that none may enter: learn its mysteries, and prepare thyself to become the pleasing and fair dwelling-place of Jesus,//Who grants the world His great mercy!"

*v: They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they shall be led into the Temple of the King.*  
The most holy Virgin, the Temple that is to contain God, is dedicated within the Temple of God; and young girls, bearing lamps, now go before her. Her noble parents, Joachim and Anna, leap for joy and dance, for they have borne her who is to bear the Creator. And she who is all-pure dances around the divine habitations and is fed by the hand of an angel. She has been revealed as the Mother of Christ,// Who grants the world His great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today let us, the crowds of the assembled faithful, celebrate a spiritual feast: let us reverently praise the Virgin Theotokos and child of God, as she is brought into the Temple of the Lord! She was forechosen from all generations to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Lord and God of all. O Virgins, bearing lamps, go before her, honoring the majestic advance of the ever-Virgin! Mothers, lay aside every sorrow and accompany them with joy, singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God, the cause of joy for the world! Therefore, let us all join with the angel, and joyfully cry out: "Rejoice!" to her who is full of grace,// and who ever intercedes for 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.

**TROPAR FOR THE FEAST OF THE THEOTOKOS, TONE 4 (1X)**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation!

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 Christ our True God, through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Feast of Whose Entrance into the Temple we celebrate today, 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 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.