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

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021  
Antipascha  
2nd Sunday of Pascha - St. Thomas Sunday  

*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!

1
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: (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

The doors being shut and the Disciples assembled, Thou didst appear to them as almighty, O Jesus, our God. Thou didst stand in their midst, giving them peace; Thou didst grant the Holy Spirit to them, commanding them to wait in Jerusalem until they would be clothed with the power from on high. Therefore we cry to Thee: // “Our Illumination and Resurrection and Peace, glory to Thee!”

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

The doors being shut and the Disciples assembled, Thou didst appear to them as almighty, O Jesus, our God. Thou didst stand in their midst, giving them peace; Thou didst grant the Holy Spirit to them, commanding them to wait in Jerusalem until they would be clothed with the power from on high. Therefore we cry to Thee: // “Our Illumination and Resurrection and Peace, glory to Thee!”
Reader: (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Eight days after Thy Resurrection, O Lord, Thou didst come to Thine Apostles proclaiming: “Peace be with you all!” To the doubting Disciple, Thou didst show Thy hands and side. He believed and cried to Thee: // “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”

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

Eight days after Thy Resurrection, O Lord, Thou didst come to Thine Apostles proclaiming: “Peace be with you all!” To the doubting Disciple, Thou didst show Thy hands and side. He believed and cried to Thee: // “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”

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

Thomas, called the Twin, was not with the Disciples, O Christ, when Thou didst come to them through closed doors. Therefore he doubted their word. Thou didst not reject him for his faithlessness. When he saw Thy side and the wounds in Thy hands and feet, his faith was made certain. Having touched and seen, he confessed Thee to be truly God, not only man, // crying: “My Lord and my 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.

Thomas, called the Twin, was not with the Disciples, O Christ, when Thou didst come to them through closed doors. Therefore he doubted their word. Thou didst not reject him for his faithlessness. When he saw Thy side and the wounds in Thy hands and feet, his faith was made certain. Having touched and seen, he confessed Thee to be truly God, not only man, // crying: “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”
Reader: (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord! The Disciples were assembled on the eighth day, and the Savior appeared to them. He gave them peace and said to Thomas: “Come, Apostle! Feel my hands, which were pierced by the nails!” Most wonderful doubt of Thomas! It brought the hearts of the faithful to knowledge.// And with fear he cried: “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”

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

The Disciples were assembled on the eighth day, and the Savior appeared to them. He gave them peace and said to Thomas: “Come, Apostle! Feel my hands, which were pierced by the nails!” Most wonderful doubt of Thomas! It brought the hearts of the faithful to knowledge.// And with fear he cried: “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”

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

After Thy rising, O Lord, though the doors were shut, Thou didst come to thine assembled Disciples, and didst grant them peace. Even Thomas believed, seeing Thy hands and side; and he confessed Thee as Lord and God,// Who savest those who hope in Thee, O Lover of man!

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

When the doors were shut, Jesus stood in the midst of His Disciples. He calmed their hearts and granted them peace, then He spoke to the Apostle Thomas: “Dost thou not believe that I am risen from the dead? Bring thy hands here, and touch My side! Be no longer an unbeliever! Proclaim My passion and My resurrection to
all, that everyone may join in thy cry:// ‘My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!’”

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

When the doors were shut, Jesus came to His Disciples. The Apostle Thomas, by divine dispensation, was not with them, for he spoke these words: “Unless I see the Master myself, unless I see His side flowing with baptismal blood and water, unless I see those wounds, which have healed all mankind, unless I see not a spirit, but flesh and bones, I will not believe.” Glory to Thee, O Lord, for Thou didst confirm Thomas in faith,// and have trampled death by death!

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

O most glorious wonder! Doubt bore certain faith! Thomas said: “Unless I see, I shall not believe!” By touching His side, he blessed the incarnate Son of God, Who had suffered in the flesh, and he proclaimed the resurrected God, crying out with joy: “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”
Reader: *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!*

O most glorious wonder! Thomas placed his hand on the fiery side of Jesus Christ, God! He was not scorched by this, but his doubt changed to certain faith, and he cried fervently: “Thou art my Master and my God.// Glory to Thee, Who have resurrected from the dead!”

Reader: *For He strengthens the bars of your gates; He blesses your sons within you!*

O most glorious wonder! John the Apostle leaned on the Savior's breast, and Thomas was made worthy to touch His side. The one thus understood the depths of theology; the other was privileged to announce the mystery of the Resurrection to us,// crying: “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”

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

How great is the abundance of Thy compassion, O Lover of mankind! Because of Thy long-suffering, Thou was struck by the Jews, Thou was examined by an Apostle and touched by those who denied Thee. How are Thou incarnate? How are Thou crucified? Thou hast not known sin! Make us understand like Thomas, that we may call out to Thee:// “My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!”

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.

CHOR: Amen.

TROPARION TO ST. THOMAS (Tone 7)

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Th Disciples, O Christ God. Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, // by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

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!

CHOR: “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 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, through the prayers of St. Thomas 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!