

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5. Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (2nd c.). Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Perekóp, Wonderworker of Novgorod

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 5)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

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 precious Cross, O Christ, Thou hast put the devil to shame.

By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin and saved us from the gates of
death.// We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter in order to grant Resurrection to the human race. The princes of hell were frightened by this, for the gates of sorrow were lifted. Christ the King of glory had entered, saying to those in chains: “Go forth!” // And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

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

O great wonder! The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man and rose again immortal. Come, O sons of nations, let us worship Him, for delivered from error by His compassion,// we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

We offer Thee our evening worship, O never-setting Light, Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh; Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness. Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.// Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

Reader: *In the 1st Tone: If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

The beholder of ineffable revelations, the interpreter of the mysteries of God on high: the son of Zebedee has recorded the Gospel of Christ for us,// teaching us to confess God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.*

The beholder of ineffable revelations, the interpreter of the mysteries of God on high: the son of Zebedee has recorded the Gospel of Christ for us,// teaching us to confess God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Divinely inspired instrument for the songs of heaven, whose secrets he wrote down for us, singing wonderfully the song of songs, with words from his mouth as music from a lyre,// he prays for us to be saved.

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

Divinely inspired instrument for the songs of heaven, whose secrets he wrote down for us, singing wonderfully the song of songs, with words from his mouth as music from a lyre,// he prays for us to be saved.

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

With thy tongue resounding as thunder, thou dost declare the hidden Word of the Wisdom of God. O beloved of God, thou dost open thy mouth to cry: "In the beginning was the Word!" // Thus thou dost illumine all mankind with the knowledge of God.

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

With thy tongue resounding as thunder, thou dost declare the hidden Word of the Wisdom of God. O beloved of God, thou dost open thy mouth to cry: "In the beginning was the Word!" // Thus thou dost illumine all mankind with the knowledge of God.

Reader: *Glory in the 2nd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

Let us give rightful praise to the Son of Thunder, the source of divine words, the chief theologian, the first to proclaim the truths of the teachings of the Wisdom of God: John the beloved and virgin. For, divinely inspired from within, he said: "In the beginning was the Word!" He taught that the Word is inseparable from the Father; equal to Him in nature, and revealed to us the right worship of the Trinity. He has also shown us the Creator, Who, being with the Father and bearing life, showed us the True Light. O awesome and fearful wonder! As thou wast filled with love, thou wast filled with divine speech, and with the glory, belief, and honor that confirm our undivided faith, // through which we attain the eternal good on the Day of Judgment.

Reader: *Now and ever The Dogmatic is in the 5th Tone: Now and Ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

In the Red Sea of old, a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured. There Moses divided the waters; here Gabriel assisted in the miracle. There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet, here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed. After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable; after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin. O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man, // O Lord, have mercy on us!

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 magnify Thee in songs of praise, O incarnate Christ and Savior.
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake, as the Lord and Lover of man,
Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, // and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

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

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man, Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all. By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality. Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb, and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God. // Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man. Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners. Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us. Grant us purification of sins, who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day! Make us worthy of Paradise // and save us, O Lover of man!

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

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh, to rise from the dead on the third day. Heal us from our earthly passions, and restore us from our evil transgressions; // and save us, O Lover of man!

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

O Apostle of Christ, Evangelist and divine Teacher, thou wast an initiate of ineffable things. Thou didst make teachings plain to the faithful, as thou didst thunder forth to us: "In the beginning was the Word!" Casting aside the words of heretics who said: "He was not!" Thou wast openly the bosom friend and beloved, like the prophet Isaiah, and the God-seer Moses. As thou hast boldness before Him, // never cease to pray for our souls!

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

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord, was born of thee, O most pure Virgin. By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse. Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God! Rejoice, O celestial Joy!

Rejoice, O Lady:// the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of 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 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Troparion for St. John the Theologian – Tone 1

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people! He Who allowed thee to recline on His breast, receives thee as thou dost bow before Him. Implore Him, O John the Theologian, to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens,// entreating for us peace and great mercy!

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 Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, whose repose we celebrate; of the Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Perekóp, Wonderworker of Novgorod 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!