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

SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021


*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.

CHOIR: Amen. Followed by: “Lord, I call upon Thee…” (Tone 4)

"Lord I Call…” Tone 4

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. 
Lord, I long to wash away with tears the record of all my sins, and to spend the remaining days of my life pleasing Thee through repentance, but the Enemy continually deceives me. He wages war against my soul. / Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

Reader: (9) The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.
Who, when caught in a storm, if he runs to this haven is not saved? Or who that is sick, if he runs to this healing, is not made whole? O Creator of all and Physician of the sick, / Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

Reader: (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!
Wash me in my tears, O Savior, for I am defiled by many sins! Therefore I fall before Thee: / I have sinned; have mercy on me, O God!

Reader: (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
I, a sheep of Thy rational flock, flee for refuge to Thee, the Good Shepherd. O God, I have gone astray; / seek me, and have mercy on me!

Reader: (6) If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee. [Tone 1]
Thou, O Christ, Who art rich, hast assumed poverty, and enriched the human race with illumination and immortality; enrich me with virtues, for I have grown poor by the pleasures of this life! Establish me with Lazarus the Poor; deliver me from the punishments of the rich / and from the torment of Gehenna that awaits me!
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.
I have become rich with evil in a wretched way. I have loved luxury and exploited the pleasures of life; I have come under the condemnation of the fire of Gehenna, I have slighted my mind, and am famished and cast down like Lazarus before the gates of divine deeds. Therefore have compassion on me, O Lord and Master!

Reader: (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord! O believers, let us diligently begin the sixth week of the solemn Fast! Let us sing songs to the Lord as He comes in glory to Jerusalem to cause death to die by His divine power! So, let us prepare the branches of the virtues, as emblems of victory, and let us cry, “Hosanna!” to the Creator of all!

Reader: (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. [Tone 5]
O venerable and truly wondrous Father John, thou wast wounded by the divine desire for Christ our God, Who for thy sake didst willingly become a wanderer and clothed Himself in flesh from the Virgin. Thou didst reach a foreign land and completely separated thyself from all the pleasures of the world. O wise and all-blessed Father, thou didst live as a stranger, acquiring the virtues. Thou didst stand whole nights in prayer and the contemplation of death. Thou didst restrain the passions by thine abstinence, showing thyself to be a follower of those who fasted before thee, with whom thou hast been glorified.

Reader: (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!
O venerable and all-glorious Father John, thou wast trained in the fold of the godly Chariton. Thou didst draw up grace like a sponge and then poured it out, in imitation of his godly ways. Thou didst spend thy whole life in stillness and wast given ordination, becoming a worthy priest. Thou didst ever offer the Sacrifice And, like an unblemished lamb, purified by divine radiance and enlightened in thy mind, thou wast carried up to mystical visions and the blessings of excellence.

Reader: (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.
O all-blessed Father John, thou wast strengthened by the might of the Trinity. Thou didst avoid all the harm of heresy. Through vision and godly action thou didst attain and hold fast to the glory of God, which is the end of all desires. Thou didst truly and worthily receive this after thy repose. Now, as thou dost rejoice, O wise and blessed one, radiantly standing before God with the angelic choirs, remember those who fittingly celebrate thy memory!
**Reader:** Glory, Now and ever The Dogmatic is in the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

To whom hast thou likened thyself, O my soul, for thou dost ever prosper in what is base and mindlessly add many stripes to thy wounds, giving no thought that thou wilt become wounded all over or that the Judge is approaching, before Whom thou wilt have to stand and receive sentence and retribution for thy deeds? Yet turn and fall down before the Virgin and cry aloud: “O Maiden, do not disdain me who have angered the merciful God, Who wast born of thee for the salvation of men, and wast crucified in the flesh.”

**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 GREAT PROKEIMENON**

**READER:** The Great Prokeimenon is in the 8th tone: Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord / to them that fear Thy Name.

**CHOIR:** Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord / to them that fear Thy Name.

**READER:** From the ends of the earth I call to Thee

**CHOIR:** Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord / to them that fear Thy Name.

**READER:** I will take shelter under the shadow of Thy wings

**CHOIR:** Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord / to them that fear Thy Name.

**READER:** So I will ever sing praises to Thy name.

**CHOIR:** Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord / to them that fear Thy Name.

**READER:** Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord!

**CHOIR:** To them that fear Thee, O Lord.

**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 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.

**Aposticha – Resurrection Tone 1**

Wonderful is the purpose of the compassionate Savior towards us; for having knowledge of future things as present, He made known the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Let us contemplate the end of both! Let us run from the cruelty and hatred of one of them; and let us emulate the endurance and long-suffering of the other, that delighting with him in the bosom of Abraham, we may cry out: “O Lord and righteous Judge, glory to Thee!”

V. To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou Who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122:1-2)

Wonderful is the purpose of the compassionate Savior towards us; for having knowledge of future things as present, He made known the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Let us contemplate the end of both! Let us run from the cruelty and hatred of one of them; and let us emulate the endurance and long-suffering of the other, that delighting with him in the bosom of Abraham, we may cry out: “O Lord and righteous Judge, glory to Thee!”

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)

Through the prayers of all the saints and of the Theotokos, grant us Thy peace, and have mercy on us, O Lord, for Thou alone art compassionate!

Glory, Now and Ever, the Theotokion is in the 1st Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Joy of the Heavenly Hosts, mighty protection of those on earth, O all-pure Virgin, save us who have recourse to thee, for in thee, after God, have we placed our hope, / O Theotokos!

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.

The Lenten Troparia (Tone 8)
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. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; // for to thee is given grace to intercede for us!

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

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints, that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows; // for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior! Beneath thy compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos. Do not despise our supplications in adversity; // but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one!

READER: Lord Have Mercy. (12x)

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify you. In the Name of the Lord, Lord Bless.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.
READER: Amen. O, Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathens, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good and the Lover of Mankind.

READER: (THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN)

O Lord and Master of my life: take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

(Prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant.

(Prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Prostration)

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.

CHOR: 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: 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, through the prayers of Ven. John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine 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.

CHOR: 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.

CHOR: Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.