

THE READER'S SERVICE OF OBEDNITSA

For use at home during the Coronavirus pandemic

With Hymns and Readings for Sunday 22nd March 2020

When this Service is used in Church, there will normally be a Reader and Choir, as is usual in Church services. If you are using the service at home, the 'Reader' may be the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – or simply the most confident reader or singer. The parts marked for the 'Choir' can be read or sung by everyone together, or by one person alone. Music for some parts may be found on the website: www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir/ If no one present is a confident singer, the service can be chanted on one note, or simply read. You may prefer to use parts of the service in your own language. If so, please make sure that the prayers are read from an Orthodox prayer book or service book.

Before the Service

If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. A lamp or candle, and incense, if available, should be lit before the Service begins.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

In place of the GREAT LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

FIRST ANTIPHON

Psalm 102

Choir: Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ and all that is within me, bless His holy Name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ and forget not all His benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities,/ Who healeth all thy diseases.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,/ slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul:/ and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

SECOND ANTIPHON

Psalm 145

Choir: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Lord, O my soul./ While I live I will praise the Lord;/ I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in any in sons of men/ in whom there is no help.

His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth:/ in that very day his thoughts perish.

The Lord shall reign forever:/ even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations.

Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O only-begotten Son and Word of God. O Thou Who art Immortal, yet for our salvation didst deign to be incarnate of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; and without change wast made man; Who also wast crucified for us; and by death didst overcome death: save us, O Christ, our God; one Person of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Beatitudes

Choir: In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord,/ when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit:/ for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:/ for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek:/ for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:/ for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful:/ for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart:/ for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers:/ for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:/ for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you,/ and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice and be exceeding glad:// for great is your reward in Heaven.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Choir: O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 7 [Music on website]
By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open paradise.
For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy.
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,
granting the world great mercy.

Troparion of the Cross in Tone 1 [Music on website]
O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries.
And by the power of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

The Kontakia are sung after the Lord's Prayer.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

INSTEAD OF THE TRISAGION [Music on website]
Choir: Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify. (x 3)

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

And Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

Choir: Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone.

Reader: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Reader: O Lord, save Thy people

Choir: and bless Thine inheritance!

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews [Hebrews 4:14-5:6]

Ye Brethren: Since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as

for those of the people. And one does not take the honour upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

ALLELUIA

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

All stand for the reading of the Gospel. In normal circumstances, only the Subdeacon or the Tonsured Reader reads the Gospel, with the permission of his Parish Priest. In these exceptional circumstances, the Gospel may be read by the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent – according to the situation.

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark [8:34-9:1]

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Reader: The Lord said: "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER TO THE LORD OF HOSTS

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

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(All make a deep reverence)*

Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

(Reverence)

Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

(Reverence)

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

The choir of holy Angels and Archangels, with all the Powers of heaven, sing Thy praises and do cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE CREED (SYMBOL OF FAITH)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets.

In One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Reader: O God, remit, pardon and forgive our sins, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether by words or deeds, whether in knowledge or ignorance, whether by day or night, whether in mind or thought; forgive us all these, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

THE KONTAKIA

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

Kontakion of the Cross in Tone 7

[Music on website]

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Paradise;
It has been mysteriously quenched by the Wood of the Cross!
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
For Thou, O my Saviour, didst come and cry to those in hell:
Enter again into Paradise.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
Constant advocate before the Creator,
despise not the cry of us sinners,
but in thy goodness

[Music on website]

come speedily to help us who call on thee in faith.

Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
for thou dost ever protect those who honour thee.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

All-holy Trinity, Mighty one in essence, Kingdom undivided, origin of all good things, be graciously inclined also to me, a sinner. Establish me; give understanding to my heart, and purge away all my vileness. Enlighten my mind, that I may glorify, sing praises, and adore Thee, and say:

Choir: One is Holy,/ One is the Lord, Jesus Christ,/ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Choir: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore.

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

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He kept all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

THE ZADOSTOYNIK

Choir:

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos,
ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.
More honourable than the Cherubim,
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim:
without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word:
true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

THE DISMISSAL

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord.

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure mother; by the power of the honourable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; and of all Thy saints, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

All venerate the Holy Cross placed on the table. When all have venerated the Holy Cross, the reader or choir sings slowly:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.