

READER'S SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020

For use at home during the Coronavirus pandemic

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.

All: Christ is risen from the dead,)
trampling down death by death,) *Three times*
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!)

*In place of the GREAT LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)*

FIRST ANTIPHON

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise!
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

Say to God: "How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thyne enemies cringe before Thee!"

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O most High!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

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

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:

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

SECOND ANTIPHON

God be bountiful and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us!

O Son of God Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!
That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

O Son of God Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!
Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee!

O Son of God Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
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

Reader: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

All: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Reader: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

All: Christ is risen from the dead ...

Reader: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!

All: Christ is risen from the dead ...

Reader: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Christ is risen from the dead ...

ENTRANCE HYMN

In the Churches bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. O Son of God, Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

TROPARIA

Troparion for Saint Thomas Sunday

Tone 7

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

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

Kontakion for Saint Thomas Sunday

Tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,
when Thou didst come to Thine Apostles through closed doors.
He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"

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

THE TRISAGION

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (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.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone.

Reader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond measure!

Choir: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond measure!

Reader: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Choir: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond measure!

Reader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power!

Choir: His understanding is beyond measure!

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles [Acts 5:12-20]

Reader: In those days: Many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honour. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

ALLELUIA

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Saviour!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

All stand for the reading of the Gospel. 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 John [20:19-31]

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

Reader: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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.

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:

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead."
Rejoice, O ye people!
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!

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, Who rose again from the dead, trampling down death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, through the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother; by the might of the precious 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, of the Holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle Thomas, and of all Thy Saints, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

All kiss the Gospel Book (or New Testament, or Bible) and the Cross placed on the table. When all have done so, the reader or choir sings slowly:

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

All: Christ is risen from the dead,)
trampling down death by death,) *Three times*
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!)