

# THE READER'S SERVICE OF OBEDNITSA

## With Hymns and Readings for Lazarus Saturday 11 April 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/](http://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 will I praise the Lord;/ I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.  
Put not your trust in princes, nor in any 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!

### TROPARION AND KONTAKION

**Troparion of Lazarus Saturday in Tone 1** [\[Music on website\]](#)

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion,  
Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God.

Like the children with the palms of victory,

we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

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

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

**Kontakion of Lazarus Saturday in Tone 2** [\[Music on website\]](#)

Christ the Joy, the Truth, and the Light of all,

the Life of the World and the Resurrection

has appeared in His goodness to those on earth.

He has become the Image of our Resurrection,

granting divine forgiveness to all.

**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

**Choir:** As many as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia! (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.

Have put on Christ. Alleluia!

As many as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

### PROKEIMENON

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone.

**Reader:** The Lord is my light and my Salvation! Whom then shall I fear?

**Choir:** The Lord is my light and my Salvation! Whom then shall I fear?

**Reader:** The Lord is the defender of my life! Of whom shall I be afraid?

**Choir:** Lord is my light and my Salvation! Whom then shall I fear?

**Reader:** Lord is my light and my Salvation!

**Choir:** Whom then shall I fear?

### EPISTLE

**Reader:** The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews [Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:1-8]

Ye Brethren: Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire. Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never fail you nor forsake you.” Hence we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

## ALLELUIA

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

**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 [11:1-45]

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

**Reader:** At that time, a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, from the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary

to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you have heard me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that you did send me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

**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:**

Let us honour the Pure Theotokos!

[[Music on website](#)]

She accepted the Fire of Divinity in her womb but was not consumed.

Let us magnify her in songs!

### 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, Who by raising Lazarus from the dead confirmed the universal Resurrection, 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 and righteous friend of Christ, Lazarus of four days, and of all Thy saints, have mercy upon us and save us.

**Choir:** 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.

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