

SERVICE FOR FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT GEORGE

For use at home during the Coronavirus pandemic

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!)

Choir: 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 Thine 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!

Choir: 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.

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 of Pascha

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

Hypakoe of Pascha

Tone 8

Before the dawn, Mary and the women came,
and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.
They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead
as a man the One Who is Everlasting Light?
Behold the-clothes in the grave. Go and proclaim to the world:
'The Lord is risen! He has slain death.
He is the Son of God, saving the race of men!'"

Troparion of Saint George

Tone 4

Thou wast bound for good deeds, O martyr of Christ, George;
by faith thou didst conquer the torturer's godlessness.
Thou wast offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God,
thus receiving the crown of victory.
Through thine intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

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

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!

PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone.

Reader: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,
sing praises!

Choir: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,
sing praises!

Reader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Choir: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,
sing praises!

Reader: [And] in the Seventh Tone.

Reader: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Choir: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles [Acts 2:38-43]

Reader: In those days: Peter said to the crowd, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

About that time, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." [Acts 12:1-11]

ALLELUIA

Reader: Go forth, prosper and reign, because of truth, and meekness, and righteousness.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

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 [3:1-15]

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

Reader: At that time, there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nikodemos, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nikodemos said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The Spirit blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, and you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nikodemos said to him, "How can this be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: This I command you, to love one another. If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all this they will do to you on my account, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It is to fulfil the word that is written in their law,

'They hated me without a cause.' But when the Counsellor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. [John 15:17-16:2]

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

Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

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.

KONTAKIA

Kontakion of Saint George

Tone 4

God raised thee as His own gardener, O George,
for thou hast gathered for thyself the sheaves of virtue.
Having sown in tears, thou now reapest with joy;
thou didst shed thy blood in combat and didst win Christ as thy crown.
Through thine intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

Kontakion of Pascha

Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,
Thou didst destroy the power of death.
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,
proclaiming "Rejoice!" to the myrrh-bearing women;
granting peace to Thine apostles,
and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

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 Lord, Jesus Christ,/ to 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 right-victorious Great-martyr George the Trophy-bearer, whose memory we celebrate today, 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!)