

READER'S SERVICE FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

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. (x 12)*

FIRST ANTIPHON

[Music on website]

Choir: Clap your hands all ye peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!
For the Lord, the Most High is terrible; a great God over all the earth.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!
He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!
God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!
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

[Music on website]

Choir: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.
O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!
Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the Great King.
O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!
Within her citadels God is known when He defends her.
O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!
For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together.
O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, 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: Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world!

Troparion - Tone 4

[Music on website]

All: O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory,
granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Reader: The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together.

All: O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory ...

Reader: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart
shall be understanding.

All: O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory ...
Reader: I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody.
All: O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory ...

ENTRANCE HYMN

Reader: God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!
Choir: O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, **Who rose in glory to the heavens**, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARION & KONTAKION

Troparion - Tone 4 [Music on website]
O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory,
granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

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 - Tone 6 [Music on website]
When Thou didst fulfil the dispensation for our sake,
and unite earth to heaven,
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying: //
“I am with you, and no one will be against you!”

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.

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone.
Reader: Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; and Thy glory
over all the earth!
Choir: Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; and Thy glory
over all the earth!
Reader: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing
and make melody in my glory.
Choir: Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; and Thy glory
over all the earth!
Reader: Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens;
Choir: and Thy glory over all the earth!

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles [1:1-12]
Reader: In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus
began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had
given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He
had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by
many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the
kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to
depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which,
He said, “You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before
many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” So when they had
come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the
kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or
seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall
receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be
my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of
the earth.” And when He had said this, as they were looking on, He was
lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. And while they were
gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white
robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?
This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the
same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” Then they returned to
Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a
Sabbath day’s journey away.

ALLELUIA

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Clap your hands all ye peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

All stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke [24:36-53]

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

Reader: At that time: After rising from the dead, Jesus Himself stood among His Disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:

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.

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:

[[Music on website](#)]

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life,
Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify the Mother of God,

who beyond reason and understanding
gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

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 for our salvation ascended from us in glory into Heaven and sat at the right hand of God the Father, 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, 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.

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