

# Reader's Service for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost • Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross • Sunday before the Exaltation • Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem

*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. (x 12)*

### **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!

## TROPARIA

### Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 5

[Music on website]

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

### Troparion of the Dedication in Tone 4

[Music on website]

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth  
to be like the splendour of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.  
Through the prayers of the Theotokos,  
strengthen it for ever and ever  
and accept our supplication  
which we ceaselessly offer to Thee therein,//  
the life and resurrection of all!

### Troparion of the Forefeast in Tone 4

[Music on website]

We offer in supplication  
the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord,  
which Thou hast granted to us  
although we are unworthy.//  
Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only  
Lover of mankind!

## 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 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:** [And] in the Fourth Tone.

**Reader:** Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

**Choir:** Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

*[NB: There are three readings from the Epistles, and three readings from the Gospels – for the Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross, the Resurrection, and for the Commemoration of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, respectively. In each case, the first and second readings are combined as if they were one passage, with no pause between them.]*

## EPISTLE

**Reader:** The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians [Galatians 6:11-18]

Ye Brethren: See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen. [2] It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me – it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have

made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. [2 Corinthians 1:21-24]

[3] Holy brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. He was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in God's house. Yet Jesus has been counted worthy of as much more glory than Moses as the builder of a house has more honour than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. [Hebrews 3:1-4]

### ALLELUIA

**Reader:** I have exalted one chosen out of My people.

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

**Reader:** For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.

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

**Reader:** Thy foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth thy gates, O Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

**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 [3:13-17]

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

**Reader** The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. 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. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." [2] And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves

are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen." [Matthew 22:1-14]

[3] At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." [Matthew 16:13-18]

**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.

### **KONTAKIA**

#### **Kontakion of the Resurrection in Tone 5**

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Saviour,  
shattering its gates as Almighty,  
resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
and destroying the sting of death.

Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, //  
and we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

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 the Dedication in Tone 4**

[\[Music on website\]](#)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,  
which enlightens all the faithful. //  
Standing within it we cry: "Establish this house, O Lord!"

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

**Reader:** 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:**

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.

*[When the service is used in church, the marked sections are omitted.]*

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Who rose again from the dead, 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 the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John; 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 Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the 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.

*[When the service is used in church, the people come one at a time to venerate the Gospel Book and Cross by making the sign of the Cross and bowing before them, but **without kissing them**. Meanwhile, the Singer quietly repeats the Troparia and Kontakia of the day, or other appropriate hymns.*

*When all have venerated the Gospel Book and Cross, the Singer sings slowly: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.]*