

Reader's Service for Sunday 29th November 2020

25th Sunday after Pentecost

**The Holy Martyr Paramon and the 370 Martyrs in Bithynia
The Holy Martyr Philumenus of Ancyra and his Companions**

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

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 8 [Music on website]

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion of Saint Chad in Tone 2

As a Bishop thou gavest thyself
to preaching the truth and the purity of the Church.
Thou didst shine forth as an example of humility and holiness;
studying the Scriptures thou tookest care to follow the Word.
Pray for thy children, O Holy Father Chad,
that we too may follow Christ,
and be found worthy to partake of the nature of God.

Troparion of the Martyrs in Tone 4 [Music on website]

In their sufferings, O Lord,
Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God;
for, possessed of Thy might,
they set at nought the tormentors, and crushed the feeble audacity
of the demons.//
Through their supplications save our souls!

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 Eighth Tone.

Reader: Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

Choir: Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

Reader: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Choir: Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

Reader: Pray and make your vows

Choir: before the Lord, our God!

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the
Ephesians [Ephesians 4:1-7]

Ye Brethren: I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of
the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and
meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to
maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body
and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to
your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all,
who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of
us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

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: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a
joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

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 Luke

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

Reader: At that time: A ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good
Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him,
"Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the

commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." [Luke 18:18-27]

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

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, //
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion of Saint Chad in Tone 2

When thou wast praying to Christ, O venerable Chad
the choir of the angels came to call thee to thy reward.
Then thou wast summoned to share
in the Thrice Holy song with the seraphim.
Pray thou that we may live
as icons of the cherubim
rejoicing before the Trinity, the Giver of life.

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

Kontakion of the Martyrs in Tone 4 [\[Music on website\]](#)

Urged on by the commandments of God,
with patience, you cleansed your souls from all defilement.
You reached perfection as spiritual athletes,
you renounced sacrifice to idols.
Imitating Christ, you were slain with a spear,
most blessed Paramon and Philumenus. //
Always fervently intercede with Christ on behalf of the world!

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

Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6 [\[Music on website\]](#)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
Constant advocate before the Creator,
despise not the cry of us sinners,
but in thy goodness
come speedily to help us who call on thee in faith.
Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
for thou dost ever protect those who honour thee.

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.

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; of the Holy, Glorious Martyrs Paramon and Philumenus, and their Companions; 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.