

Service for use at home on 21st November 2020

The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

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: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God. *Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!*

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. *Through the prayers ...*
Within her citadels, God has shown Himself a sure defence! *Through the prayers ...*

As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of the Lord of Hosts, in the city of our God. *Through the prayers ...*

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 ...*

In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

SECOND ANTIPHON

[Music on website]

Choir: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved!

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Honour and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary!

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it!

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, Thy holy Temple!

O Son of God, glorified in Thy Saints, 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: Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favour.

Troparion of the Entrance in Tone 4

[Music on website]

Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.

The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.

Let us rejoice and sing to her:

“Rejoice, O Divine Fulfilment// of the Creator’s dispensation!”

Reader: The King’s daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold.

Choir: *Today is the preview of the good will of God ...*

Reader: She is brought to the King with her virgin companions, her escort, in her train.

Choir: *Today is the preview of the good will of God ...*

ENTRANCE HYMN

Choir: O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who art **wonderful in Thy Saints**, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARION & KONTAKION

Troparion of the Entrance in Tone 4

[Music on website]

Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Divine Fulfilment// of the Creator's dispensation!"

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 of the Entrance in Tone 4

[Music on website]

The most pure Temple of the Saviour; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise:// "Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

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

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 Third Tone.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Reader: For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord

Choir: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews [Hebrews 9:1-7]

Ye Brethren: The first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

ALLELUIA

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: The rich among the people shall pray before Thy face.

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: Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" [Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]

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. (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

[[Music on website](#)]

Choir:

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed.//

How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

As thou art a living Temple of God

let no profane hand touch thee, O Theotokos.

But let the lips of all believers sing,

constantly magnifying thee in joy

with the angelic salutation://

“Truly, thou art above all creatures, O Pure 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, through the intercessions of Thine all-immaculate and all-blameless Holy Mother, whose Entrance into the Temple we celebrate; 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 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.