

# The Meeting of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Temple

## Vespers sung on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

*The online service will be served by a priest, so the litanies will be sung as normal. The parts of the service which are read or sung by the priest are shown in red. These are omitted if the service is used without a priest.*

*If you are serving the service at home without a priest, follow the marked sections shown in blue. 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.*

*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.*

Available music may be found at [www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir](http://www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir)

### Before the Service

*Whether you are following the service online, or serving it at home without a priest, you should do so in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If you have charcoal and incense, you may wish to light the charcoal before the service begins; you can then place incense on the lit charcoal during the hymn **Lord I call** at the words "Let my prayer arise". You may wish to prepare an **unlit** lamp or candle(s) which can be lit when the hymn **O Gladsome Light** is sung.*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

**Reader:** O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

### PSALM 103

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou

turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (x 3)

### THE LITANY OF PEACE

*In place of the Litany of Peace, the choir sings:*  
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

“LORD I CALL ...”

**Tone 1**

[Music on website]

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon Thee!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Thy sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 1**

[Music on website]

Simeon, tell us, Whom dost thou bear in thine arms,  
that thou dost rejoice so greatly in the Temple?  
To Whom dost thou shout and cry aloud:  
“Now am I set free, for I have seen my Saviour?”  
This is He Who was born of a Virgin;  
this is God the Word, Who came forth from God,  
Who for our sakes has taken flesh and has saved man.//  
Let us worship Him!

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*Repeat: “Simeon, tell us ...”*

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

*Repeat: “Simeon, tell us ...”*

*For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy Word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Simeon, receive Him Whom Moses once beheld in darkness,  
granting the Law on Sinai,  
now that He has become a Babe subject to the Law!  
This is He Who spoke through the Law.  
This is He, of Whom the Prophets spoke,  
Who for our sakes has taken flesh and has saved man.//  
Let us worship Him!

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

*Repeat: “Simeon, receive Him ...”*

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

*Repeat: “Simeon, receive Him ...”*

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Come, let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs!  
Let us receive Him Whose salvation Simeon saw!  
This is He Whom David announced;  
this is He Who spoke in the Prophets,  
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and Who speaks through the Law.//  
Let us worship Him!

*For His mercy is confirmed on us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

*Repeat: "Come, let us also go to meet Christ ..."*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### **Tone 6**

Let the gate of heaven be opened today,  
for the unoriginate Word of the Father  
has made a beginning in time without forsaking His divinity.  
As a Babe forty days old,  
of His own will He is brought by the Virgin, His Mother,  
as an offering in the Temple of the Law.  
The Elder receives Him in his arms,  
crying as a servant to his Master:  
"Let me depart, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!"//  
Glory to Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast come into the world to save the  
human race!

### **THE ENTRANCE WITH THE CENSER**

**Priest:** *Wisdom! Stand upright!*

### **O GLADSOME LIGHT**

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly,  
holy, blessed, Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the  
sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of  
praise, O Son of God, the Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth  
glorify Thee.

### **THE EVENING PROKEIMENON**

**Priest:** *Let us attend! Peace be to all!*

**Choir:** *And to thy spirit.*

**Priest/Reader:** The Evening Prokeimenon.

**Reader:** The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

**Choir:** The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

**Reader:** When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou  
didst hearken unto me.

**Choir:** The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him.

**Reader:** The Lord will hearken unto me

**Choir:** when I cry unto Him.

### **READINGS**

**Priest:** *Wisdom!*

**Reader:** The Reading from Exodus

**Priest:** *Let us attend!*

**Reader:** The Lord spake to Moses in that day that He brought out the  
children of Israel from the land of Egypt, saying: "Sanctify to Me every  
firstborn, first-produced, opening every womb among the children of  
Israel." And Moses went, and gathered all the people together, and  
said: Remember this day in which ye came forth out of the land of  
Egypt, out of the house of bondage, for with a strong hand the Lord  
brought you forth from thence. And preserve ye His law. And it shall  
come to pass when the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land of  
the Canaanites, as He promised to thy fathers, and thou shalt set apart  
every firstborn opening the womb, the males to the Lord. And if thy  
son should ask thee hereafter, saying: What is this? then thou shalt say  
to him: With a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the  
house of bondage. And when Pharaoh hardened his heart so as not to  
send us away, he slew every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the  
firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore do I sacrifice to  
the Lord every offspring that openeth the womb, the males to the Lord,  
and ever firstborn of my sons I will redeem. And it shall be for a sign  
unto thy hand, and immovable before thine eyes. For thus said the  
Lord God Almighty: The firstborn of thy sons thou shalt give to Me. And  
whosoever shall have borne a male child, on the eighth day she shall  
circumcise the flesh of his foreskin. And for thirty-three days she shall  
not enter the sanctuary, unto the priest, until the days of her  
purification be fulfilled. And thereafter she shall bring a lamb of a year

old without blemish for a whole-burnt offering, and a young pigeon or turtle-dove to the door of the tabernacle of witness, to the priest. And if she cannot afford a lamb, then shall she take two turtle-doves or two young pigeons, and the priest shall pray for him. For these are given to Me for a present out of the midst of the children of Israel: I have taken them, and have sanctified them to Myself instead of the firstborn of the Egyptians, in the day in which I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt, whether of man or beast, said God Most High, the Holy One of Israel. [Exodus 12:51-13:3; Leviticus 12:2-7; Numbers 8:16-17]

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** And it came to pass in the year in which King Uzziah died, that I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, and the house was full of His glory. And seraphim stood round about Him: each one had six wings: and with two they covered their face, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one cried to the other, and they said: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts! The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the lintel shook at the voice they uttered, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! for I am pricked to the heart; for being a man, and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people having unclean lips; and I have seen with mine eyes the King, the Lord of hosts!" And there was sent to me one of the seraphim, and he had in his hand an ember, which he had taken off the altar with the tongs: and he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this hath touched thy lips, and will take away thine iniquities, and will purge off thy sins." And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom should I send, and who will go to this people?" And I said: "Behold, I am here, send me!" And He said: "Go, and say to this people: Ye shall hear indeed, but ye shall not understand; and ye shall see indeed, but ye shall not perceive. For the heart of this people hath become gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them." And I said: "How long, O Lord?" And He said: "Until the cities be deserted by reason of their not being inhabited, and the houses by reason of there being no men, and the land shall be left desolate. And after this God shall remove the men far off, and they that are left upon the land shall be multiplied." [Isaiah 6:1-12]

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Behold, the Lord sitteth on a light cloud, and shall come to Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence, and their heart shall faint within them. And their spirit shall be troubled within them; and I will frustrate their counsel. And I will deliver Egypt into the hands of men, of cruel lords: for the Lord and Master, the Holy One of Sabaoth, saith these things. And the Egyptians shall drink water that is by the sea, but the river shall fail, and be dried up. These things saith the Lord: "Where are now thy wise men? And let them declare to thee, and say: What hath the Lord of hosts purposed upon Egypt?" But in that day the Egyptians shall be in fear and trembling, because of the hand of the Lord of Sabaoth, which He shall bring upon them. In that day there shall be an altar to the Lord in the land of the Egyptians, and a pillar to the Lord by its border. And it shall be for a sign to the Lord forever in the land of Egypt: for they shall presently cry to the Lord, and the Lord shall send them a Man who shall save them. The Lord shall be known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day; and they shall offer sacrifices, and shall vow vows to the Lord. [Isaiah 19:1, 3, 4-5, 12, 16, 19-21]

## THE EVENING LITANY

*In place of the Evening Litany, the choir sings:  
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)*

## VOUCHSAFE, O LORD

**Reader:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



## THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*In place of the Litany of Supplication, the choir sings:  
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)*

### THE PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF THE HEADS

**Priest:** Peace be to all!

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** Bow your heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

*The Priest reads the Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads:*

**Priest:** ... now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### APOSTICHA

**Tone 7**

[[Music on website](#)]

Adorn thy bridal chamber, O Zion,  
and welcome Christ the King!  
Salute Mary, the heavenly gate, fashioned as the throne of the Cherubim!  
She carries the King of Glory!  
The Virgin is a cloud of light:  
she has borne in the flesh the Son begotten before the Morning Star.  
Simeon, taking Him in his arms, proclaimed to the peoples://  
“He is the Master of life and death; the Saviour of the world!”

*v. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!*

The unwedded Mother has brought into the Temple  
Him Who shone forth before the ages from the Father.  
In these latter times He was born from a Virgin womb.  
He gave the Law on Mount Sinai, yet He makes Himself obedient to the  
commandment of the Law.

She has brought Him to the Priest and righteous Elder  
whose appointed lot it was to see Christ the Lord.  
Simeon, receiving Him in his arms, rejoiced greatly and cried aloud:  
“This is God Who is co-eternal with the Father!//  
He is the Redeemer of our souls!”

*v. A Light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.*

The Theotokos Mary carried in her arms  
Him Who is borne aloft upon the chariot of the cherubim, and praised  
in song by the seraphim.

The Giver of the Law, Who fulfils the commandment of the Law,  
was made flesh of the Unwedded Virgin.

She gave Him into the arms of the Priest and Elder.

Holding the Life, he asked to be released from life, saying:

“Now, Master, let me depart to declare to Adam  
that I have seen the pre-eternal God and Saviour of the world,//  
Who was made a Babe without undergoing change!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Tone 8

He Who is borne on high by the Cherubim  
and praised in hymns by the Seraphim  
is brought today according to the Law into the holy Temple  
and rests in the arms of the Elder as on a throne.  
From Joseph He receives gifts fitting for God:  
a pair of doves, a symbol of the spotless Church  
and of the newly chosen people of the Gentiles,  
and two young pigeons,  
for He is the originator of the two Covenants, both Old and New.  
Simeon, now granted the fulfilment of the prophecies concerning  
himself,  
blesses the Virgin and Theotokos Mary.  
He foretells in figures the Passion of her Son.  
From Him he begs release, crying aloud:  
“Now, Master, let me depart as Thou hast promised me,  
for I have seen the pre-eternal Light//  
and the Lord and Saviour of the people who bear the Name of Christ!”

### THE PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON, THE GOD-RECEIVER

**Priest/Reader:** Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace,  
according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which  
Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten  
the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x 3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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.

**Priest:** For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

### TROPARION

**Troparion of the Meeting of the Lord in Tone 1** [Music on website]

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!

From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness.

Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, // Who grants us the Resurrection!

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

*Repeat: "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos ..."*

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

*Repeat: "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos ..."*

### THE DISMISSAL

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Choir:** Father, bless.

**Priest:** Christ our God, He Who is, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Reader:** Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

**Choir:** More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without defilement gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

**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.

Father, give the blessing.

*The Priest gives the blessing.*

Bless, O Lord.

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Who deigned to be carried in the arms of Righteous Simeon for our salvation; 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.

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