

VESPERS ON SATURDAY EVENING

From the Eve of Saint Thomas Sunday until the Eve of the Sunday of the Blind Man

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

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.*

Sections marked ✠ will change from week to week. A separate sheet containing these sections will be provided.

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

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead,)
trampling down death by death,) *Twice*
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!)

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,

Choir: and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

All: Christ is risen from the dead,)
trampling down death by death,) *Three times*
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!)

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 for ever 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. *(3 times)*

THE LITANY OF PEACE

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

“LORD, I CALL ...”

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!

✠ *See separate sheet for the Hymns (Stichera) of the day.*

THE ENTRANCE WITH THE CENSER

Priest: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: 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: The Evening Prokeimenon

Priest/Reader: The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath He clothed Himself.

Choir: The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath He clothed Himself.

Priest/Reader: The Lord is clothed with strength and hath girt Himself.

Choir: The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath He clothed Himself.

Priest/Reader: For He established the world, which shall not be shaken.

Choir: The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath He clothed Himself.

Priest/Reader: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Choir: The Lord hath become King; with beauty hath He clothed Himself.

Priest/Reader: The Lord hath become King;

Choir: with beauty hath He clothed Himself.

✠ **READINGS** from the Old or New Testament are sometimes included. If there are Readings, they are announced as follows:

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from —

Priest: Let us attend!

THE EVENING LITANY

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

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. (12 times)*

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** – See separate sheet

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.

✠ **TROPARIA / APOLYTIKIA** – See separate sheet

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: Father, bless.

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

Reader: Amen.

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

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

Reader: 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!

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

Reader: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Father, give the blessing.

The Priest gives the blessing.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,

Choir: and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Reader: Bless, O Lord.

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Who rose again from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life; through the intercessions of Thine all-immaculate and all-blameless Holy 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 the Holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our 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: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!