

## Reader's Service for the Meeting of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in 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/](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

The Lord hath made known His salvation in the sight of all the Gentiles.  
O Son of God, who wast held in the arms of righteous Simeon, save us  
who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

## TROPARION AND KONTAKION

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

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

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb  
and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God.  
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. //  
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

**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.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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.

[**Priest:** Dynamis!]

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, 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

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.  
Ye Brethren: It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the  
superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it  
is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who  
receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins  
of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been  
attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people  
received the law), what further need would there have been for another  
priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named  
after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood,  
there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom  
these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one  
has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was  
descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said  
nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another  
priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest,  
not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by  
the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a  
priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek." [Hebrews 7:7-17]

## ALLELUIA

**Priest:** Peace be to thee that readest, and to all the people.

**Reader:** And to thy spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

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

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

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

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

### **THE GOSPEL**

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: The parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. [Luke 2:22-40]

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

*Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:*

Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

### **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. (x 3)

**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**

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians! [Music on website]  
Protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!  
We faithful saw the figure in the shadow of the Law and the scriptures:  
every male child that opens the womb was holy to God.  
Therefore we also magnify the first begotten Son of the unoriginate Father, //  
the firstborn Son of the unwedded Mother!

### **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:** O 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.

**Choir:** 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.