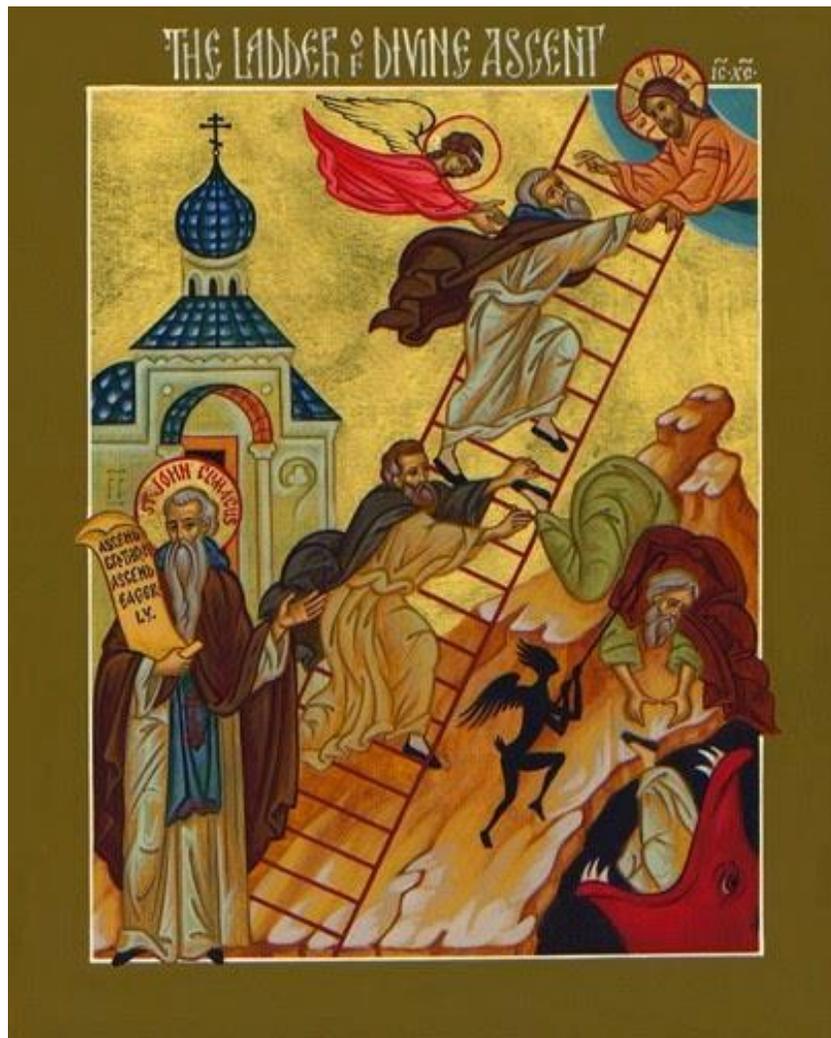


# READERS VESPERS

*Saturday March 28, 2020*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – St. John Climacus*

*Abridged and adapted for use at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church, as done by a Priest*



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*At the appointed time we begin:*

O God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me (3).

Blessed is our God, always now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King! The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth Who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us! Cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

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



ur 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.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy (12) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King! (*metania*)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! (*metania*)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself our King and our God!

(*metania*)

## Psalm 104

**B**less the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, Who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters. Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, Who ridest on the wings of the wind, Who makest the winds Thy messengers; fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season. When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renewest the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever, may the Lord rejoice in His works, Who looks on the earth and it trembles, Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3)

### **Great Litany**

*The regular petitions are not intoned, instead:*

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

### **Lord, I Call**

*Tone 8*

**L**ord 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!

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth and a door of enclosure about my lips. Incline not my heart to evil deeds, to make excuses in sins. With men that work iniquity: let me never partake of their delights. Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the sinner never anoint my head. For my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one breaks and shatters on the ground, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the Sheol. But my eyes are turned toward Thee, Lord God, In Thee I take refuge. Leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets while I alone escape. I cried with my voice to the Lord, with my voice to the Lord did I make my supplication. I poured out my complaint before Him. I showed before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knew my path. In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me. I looked on my right but there was no one that would know me. Refuge failed me. No one cared for my soul. I cried to Thee, O Lord, I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry for I am brought very low. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

***(10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!***

We offer to Thee, O Christ, our evening song and reasonable service, for Thou didst will to have mercy on us// by Thy Resurrection.

***(9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.***

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Thy face! For Thou didst will to have mercy on us// by Thy Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion: Mother of the churches, the abode of God, for thou wast the first to receive remission of sins// by the Resurrection.

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

The Word of God the Father, begotten before the ages, in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin and endured crucifixion unto death. He has saved mortal man// by His Resurrection.

***(6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.***

We glorify Thee, O Lord for Thou didst voluntarily endure the Cross for our sake. We fall down in worship before Thee, O almighty Savior. Do not cast us away from Thy face but hear us and save us, O Lover of man,// by Thy Resurrection!

***(5) For Thy name's sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.***

Glory to Thee, O Savior Christ, Only-begotten Son of God, who wast nailed to the Cross// and resurrected from the tomb on the third day!

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

We glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, by which Thou hast freed Adam's race from the tortures of hell,// and as God hast granted to the world eternal life and great mercy.

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

The Lord's praises were always on thy lips, O holy Father John. With deep wisdom thou didst search the Scriptures, which teach us to deny ourselves. Thou didst become rich in the blessings of grace, // overthrowing the craftiness of the devil.

***(2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!***

Thou didst wash thy soul in a fountain of tears, O most glorious Father John, keeping vigil for God and gaining His mercy. Upborne on the wings of prayer, thou didst fly to divine love and beauty. Now, together with thy fellow soldiers, O holy one, // thou dwellest in His spiritual light and unending joy.

***(1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.***

On the wings of faith thou didst raise thy mind to God, O holy Father John. Hating the world's confusion and vanity, thou didst take up thy cross and didst follow Him Who sees all things. Thou didst submit thy rebellious flesh to His guidance, through the discipline of self-denial, // by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

O holy Father, hearing the Lord's voice in the Gospel, thou didst spurn the riches and glory of the world. Thou didst cry out to all: "Love God and find eternal grace! Set nothing higher than His love; thus, thou wilt find rest with all the saints, when He comes in glory!" // Through His prayers guard and save our souls, O Christ!

***Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.***

The King of heaven, because of His love for man, appeared on earth and dwelt with men. He took flesh from the pure Virgin and after assuming it, He came forth from her. The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person. Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man, we confess Christ our God! // Entreat him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

## Gladsome Light



Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed: Jesus Christ! Having come to the setting of the sun, and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: God! At all times Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, and Giver of Life. Therefore, the world glorifies Thee!

## Evening Prokeimenon

Wisdom! Let us Attend! The Prokeimenon in the 6th tone: The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

*(refrain)* **The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty**

The Lord is robed with strength and has gird Himself! *(refrain)*

For He hath made the world so sure, that it shall not be moved. *(refrain)*

Holiness becometh Thine house, O Lord, unto length of days! *(refrain)*

The Lord is King! **He is robed in majesty!**

## Vouchsafe, O Lord

**V**ouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night 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

## Litany of Supplication

*The regular petitions are not intoned, instead:*

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

## Aposticha

*Then the appointed Aposticha stikeron & verses are now sung/read. Note: On certain occasions verses other than those listed below may assigned to be used with the appointed stikeron.*

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,  
the eternal Life has come for death  
to raise those who are fallen;  
to enlighten those in darkness://  
O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to Thee!

### ***The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!***

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.  
He accepted the human body and soul,  
and freed both from suffering.  
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.  
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//  
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

### ***For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.***

In psalms and songs we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.  
By it, Thou hast freed us from the tortures of hell//  
and as God hast granted eternal life and great mercy.

### ***Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!***

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,  
by Thy suffering on the Cross Thou hast gained passionlessness for me.  
Accepting burial and arising in glory,  
Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself by Thine almighty hand.  
Glory to Thy rising on the third day!  
By it Thou hast granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//  
as the only compassionate One.

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

Let us honor John!

He is an earthly angel and a heavenly man,  
the adornment of the world, the joy of the virtuous,  
the glory of ascetics.

He was planted in the house of God,  
and blossomed with the flower of sanctity.

He flourished in the desert like a cedar of Lebanon./

Through him the sheep of Christ's flock grow in holiness and righteousness.

***Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.***

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!

Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,  
who carried in her arms her Creator?

This birth is the will of God!

Since thou didst carry Him as an infant in thine arms, O most pure one,  
and since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him,

do not cease praying for us who honor thee,/  
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

**St. Symeon's Prayer**

**L**ord, 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: a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy  
people, Israel.

## Trisagion (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

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



ur 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.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The Troparion(s) of the day are now sung/read.*

### **Tone 8 Troparion - (Resurrection)**

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!

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

### **Tone 1 Troparion - (for St. John Climacus)**

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,  
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.  
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer,  
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.  
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!  
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown!//  
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

***Tone 1 - Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion***

When Gabriel announced to thee, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”  
with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^thee,  
the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!  
Thy womb became more spacious than the heavens,  
for thou didst carry thy Creator.  
Glory to Him Who took abode in thee!  
Glory to Him Who came ^forth from thee!//  
Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of thee!

**Litany of Fervent Supplication**

*The regular petitions are not intoned, instead:*

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**Dismissal**

Wisdom! Blessed be *He Who Is*, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Amen. Preserve O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.**

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

**More honorable 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!**

Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our only sure hope, glory to Thee!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3) O Lord, bless!**

**M**ay He who arose from the dead, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the Holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of St. John of Sinai, the author of the Ladder who we commemorate today, and of all those Saints who have shone forth in North America, and of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loves mankind. Amen.

*A short homily may be given here*

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us and save us! Amen.