

May 24, 2020, Sunday of the Blind Man: Reader Service

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

[Sing:] “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!”
(*Thrice*)

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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

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. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, 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 evil.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord have mercy. *Twelve Times.*

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

O come let us worship God our King.

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

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

First Antiphon

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 forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases. | The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and of great goodness. * Bless the Lord, O my soul; | blessed art Thou, O Lord

Second Antiphon

Glory to the Father, | and to the Son, | and to the Holy Spirit. | Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord as long as I live, I will sing praises to my God while I have being. | Put not your trust in princes, in sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. | When his breath departs he returns to his earth; on that very day his plans perish. * Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, | The Lord will reign forever; thy God, O Zion, to all generations.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages; Amen. | Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who without change didst become man, and was crucified, Who is One of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit; O Christ God, trampling down death by death, save us.

Third Antiphon

In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, : when Thou comest into 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 that 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 sons of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, 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.

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

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Troparia of the day:

Tone 5 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

For holy art Thou, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen

Trisagion:

Reader: Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

Reader: *The Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone:* Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

Reader: "The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles."

"Brethren: And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."

Reader: Alleluia in the 8th Tone

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. *Look upon me and have mercy on me!*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. *Guide my steps according to Thy word!*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Reader: Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!
Let us attend.

[The Gospel is read in a normal voice.]

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Holy Holy Holy in the 6th Sticheron Tone:

Reader:

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

[Stichos:] Come unto Him, and be enlightened and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; 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 heavenly hosts praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

[In plain chant:] Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Creed:

Reader: 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 Son of God, / the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; / Light of Light, true God of true God; / begotten, not made; of one essence 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 Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; / And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, / and suffered and was buried; / And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; / And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; / And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; / Whose kingdom shall have no end. / And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father; / Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. / In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. / I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. / I look for the resurrection of the dead, / and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Reader: And vouchsafe us, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon Thee the heavenly God as Father, and to say:

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 evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Kontakia:

Tone 4 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to Thee in repentance://
“Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,
Thou didst destroy the power of death.
In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God,
proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (x12)

O All-Holy Trinity, the consubstantial dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every Good: Show Thy good will even unto me a sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away mine every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say:

One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

Psalm 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall always be in on my lips.

In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations.

Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations.

The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him.

O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him.

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. * Come

ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days?

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking deceit.

Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication.

The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit.

Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken.

The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong.

The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

Megalynarion: *Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:*

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead.”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of thy Son!

Ending:

Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

[Sing:]

“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!”

(3 times)

And unto us He has given eternal life.

Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

Reader (facing the east):

Thou that didst rise from the dead, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

His Beatitude, the Most Blessed Tikhon, Metropolitan of all America and Canada; His Eminence Archbishop Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania; the members of this Holy community and all Orthodox Christians, preserve, O Lord, for Many Years.