

# **Saint Mary Protectress Center**

## **Reader Service**

**(service without a priest)**

### **Sunday of the Prodigal Son / The Holy New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia**

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

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
both 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. (3x)

+ 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 the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Lord have mercy. (12x)

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
both now and ever, and unto the 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.

**Antiphon 1**  
(from Psalm 102)

**Choir:** (Tone 1)

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 iniquities,  
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!

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Antiphon 2**  
(From Psalm 145)

**Choir:** (Tone 1)

+ 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.

The Lord will reign forever;  
Thy God, O Zion, to all generations.

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

Only-Begotten Son and Immortal Word of God.  
Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate  
of the holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary;  
Who without change didst become man and was crucified.  
O Christ our God, trampling down death by death;  
who art one of the Holy Trinity,  
Glorified with the + Father and the Holy Spirit:  
Save us!

**Reader:** Lord have mercy. (3x)

### **Antiphon 3** **The Beatitudes**

**Choir:** (Tone I)

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.

**Reader:** (12) We offer Thee the cry of the thief, and we pray: Remember us in  
Thy kingdom, O Saviour.

**Choir:** Blessed are they that mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

**Reader:** (11) For the forgiveness of transgressions we offer unto Thee the Cross which Thou didst accept for our sake, O Thou who lovest mankind.

**Choir:** Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

**Reader:** (10) We bow down in worship, O Master, before Thy burial and rising, whereby Thou hast delivered the world from corruption, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

**Choir:** Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
for they shall be filled.

**Reader:** (9) By Thy death hath death been slain, O Lord, and by Thy resurrection hast Thou saved the world, O Saviour.

**Choir:** Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.

**Reader:** (8) Utterly beside myself, I have clung in madness to the sins suggested to me by the passions. But accept me, O Christ, as the Prodigal.

**Choir:** Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

**Reader:** (7) **[Repeat Previous]** Utterly beside myself, I have clung in madness to the sins suggested to me by the passions. But accept me, O Christ, as the Prodigal.

**Choir:** Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called the sons of God.

**Reader:** (6) With the words of the Prodigal I cry aloud: I have sinned, O Father; like him, receive me now in Thine embrace and reject me not.

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

**Reader:** (5) Open Thine arms, O Christ, and in loving-kindness receive me as I return from a far country of sin and passions.

**Choir:** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**Reader:** (4) Remember, O Lord, the dreadful torments which the new passion-bearers suffered for Thee, who have now sprouted forth from our race; and accept their entreaties for our salvation.

**Choir:** Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in the heavens.

**Reader:** (3) O righteous Judge, Thou hast opened the kingdom of heaven unto the confessors of the Church of Russia. Hearken, O Lord, unto their righteousness, and give ear unto their supplication for the salvation of our souls.

**Choir:** + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**Reader:** (2) O most divine Trinity, return us from our captivity! We know that sin hath increased in our land more than ever before; yet grace also hath shone forth in the struggle of the new saints, who also entreat Thee, O thrice-holy God, for the salvation of our souls.

**Choir:** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** (1) Gather the dispersed; raise up the faint-hearted; call them that have renounced the holy Faith and convert them, O gracious and all-pure Virgin Mary, entreating Christ the Saviour, with the holy new martyrs and confessors, for the forgiveness and salvation of our souls.

**Introit**  
(Entry Hymn)

**Choir:** O come let us worship and fall down before Christ, Who didst rise from the dead, O Son of God, Save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **Troparia** (Thematic Hymns)

### **Choir: Resurrectional Troparion (Tone 2)**

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, / then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. / And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, / all the Hosts of the heavens cried out: // O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

### **St Mary Protectress Troparion (Tone 4)**

Today we Orthodox people joyfully celebrate / thy glorious coming among us, O Mother of God, / and gazing upon thy most pure image, we say with compunction: / Shelter us with thy most precious protection, / and deliver us from all evil, / and pray to thy Son, Christ our God, // that He save our souls.

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

**Troparion of the New-Martyrs (Tone 4)** O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion-bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, men, women and children, / ye countless new-martyrs, confessors, / blossoms of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: / Entreat Him, as the One that planted you, / that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

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

### **Resurrectional Theotokion (Tone 4)**

The mystery hidden from before the ages / and unknown even to the angels, through thee, O Theotokos, hath been revealed to those on earth: / God incarnate in unconfused union, / Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake / and thereby raising up the first-formed man, // hath saved our souls from death.

## **Trisagion** (Thrice-Holy Hymn)

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

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

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us,

**Prokeimenon**  
(that which precedes)

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 2nd Tone: The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.

**Choir:** The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.

**Reader:** With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me, but He hath not given me over unto death.

**Choir:** The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone: For Thy sake, O Lord, we are slain all the day long.

**Choir:** For Thy sake, O Lord, we are slain all the day long.

**Epistle Reading**  
(1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Romans 8:28-39)

**Reader:** The Reading is from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Brethren: All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. \* Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. \* And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. \* Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. \* What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. \* But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. \* Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. \* What? know ye not that your body is the temple of

the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? \*  
For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your  
spirit, which are God's.

Brethren: For whom the Lord did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be  
conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many  
brethren. \* Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom  
he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. \*  
What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? \*  
He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not  
with him also freely give us all things? \* Who shall lay any thing to the charge of  
God's elect? It is God that justifieth. \* Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ  
that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who  
also maketh intercession for us. \* Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or  
sword? \* As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are  
accounted as sheep for the slaughter. \* Nay, in all these things we are more than  
conquerors through him that loved us. \* For I am persuaded, that neither death,  
nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to  
come, \* Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us  
from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Alleluia**  
(Praise ye the Lord)

**Reader:** Alleluia in the 2nd Tone: The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the  
name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

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

**Reader:** O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call  
upon Thee.

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

**Reader:** In the 4th tone: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He  
delivered them out of all their tribulations

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

**Holy Gospel Reading**  
(Luke 15:11-32; Luke 21:12-19)

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

**Reader:** The Lord spake this parable: A certain man had two sons: \* And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. \* And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. \* And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. \* And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. \* And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. \* And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! \* I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, \* And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. \* And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. \* And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. \* But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: \* And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: \* For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. \* Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. \* And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. \* And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. \* And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. \* And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: \* But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. \* And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. \* It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

The Lord said to His disciples: Before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. \* And it shall turn to you for a testimony. \* Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: \* For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. \* And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. \* And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. \* But there shall not an hair of your head perish. \* In your patience possess ye your souls.

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

**Choir:** (Tone 6, Vespéral Sticheron)

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.

**Reader:** Come unto Him, and be enlightened & your faces shall not be ashamed.

**Choir:** The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith:

Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

**Reader:** + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Choir:** 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.

**Reader:** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

## The Nicene Creed

**Choir:** + 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 the heavens, / and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; / And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, / and suffered and was buried; and arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; / And ascended into the heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; / And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. / And in the Holy Spirit, 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 confess one baptism for the remission of sins. / I look for the resurrection of the dead, / And the life of the age to come. Amen.

**Reader:** Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for Thou art good & the Lover of mankind.

## The Lord's Prayer

**Choir:** (Tone 4)

+ Our Father, Who art in the heavens,  
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

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

## Kontakia (Thematic Hymns)

**Choir:** Resurrectional Kontakion (Tone 1)

Thou didst rise from the tomb, O omnipotent Saviour, / and Hades was terrified on beholding the wonder; / and the dead arose, / and creation at the sight thereof rejoiceth with Thee. / And Adam also is joyful, // and the world, O my Saviour, praiseth Thee for ever.

### St Mary Protectress Kontakion (Tone 3)

Today the Virgin doth stand before us in church, / and with the choirs of saints invisibly prayeth for us to God. / Angels worship with hierarchs, / apostles rejoice with prophets, // for the Theotokos prayeth for us to the Eternal God.

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

### Kontakion of the New-Martyrs (Tone 2)

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with your confession finished the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: / Beseech Christ Who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us / may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a witness to us who venerate your struggle, / that neither tribulation, prison, nor death // can separate us from the love of God.

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

### Kontakion of the Triodion (Tone 3)

Having foolishly abandoned Thy paternal glory, / I squandered on vices the wealth which Thou gavest me. / Wherefore, I cry unto Thee with the voice of the Prodigal: / I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father. / Receive me as one repentant, // and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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:

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

Blessed by the name of the Lord, henceforth and forever more. (3x)

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

### Psalm 33

**Choir:** I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
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.

### Hymn to the Theotokos

**Choir:** It is truly meet to bless thee, the Theotokos,  
ever-blessed and most blameless, and Mother of Our God.  
More honorable than the Cherubim,  
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,  
who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word,  
the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

O Lord, Bless.

**Reader:** 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 our Protectress, 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.

**Choir:** Amen

### **Memory Eternal**

(For those who have fallen asleep in the Lord)

**Choir:**

Memory eternal!

Memory eternal!

Memory eternal!

His/Her/Their soul(s) shall dwell with the blessed!

### **Many Years**

(For those celebrating birthdays and namedays)

**Choir:**

God grant you many years!

God grant you many years!

God grant you many, many years!