

Saint Mary Protectress Center

Reader Service

(service without a priest)

The Ascension of our Lord, St John the Theologian, Thursday, 6th Week after Pascha, Tone 5

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

Reader: + 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.

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 1)

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)

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

Reader: (11)

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

Reader: (10)

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

Reader: (9)

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

Reader: (8) Thou didst go up unto the Father, O Life-giving Christ, and Thou didst exalt our race by Thine ineffable compassion, O Friend of man.

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

Reader: (7) The ranks of Angels, O Saviour, on beholding man's nature going up together with Thee, were amazed and ceaselessly praised Thee.

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

Reader: (6) The choirs of Angels were amazed, O Christ, as they beheld thee taken up with Thy body, and they praised Thy holy Ascension.

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

Reader: (5) Thou didst raise up human nature which was fallen into corruption, O Christ, and in Thine Ascension Thou didst exalt us and glorify us together with Thyself.

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) Isaiah beheld in an image the burning Coal of the divine fire which purified his lips, and He was vouchsafed prophecy; and thou, O blessed John, wast shown to recline against the breast of God the Word incarnate.

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

Reader: (3) Isaiah beheld in an image the burning Coal of the divine fire which purified his lips, and He was vouchsafed prophecy; and thou, O blessed John, wast shown to recline against the breast of God the Word incarnate.

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

Reader: (2) The only-begotten Word Who sitteth in the bosom of the Father was seen incarnate, O blessed John, and told thee, as the beloved initiate of His mysteries, that thou wouldst see the incorporeal God Whom no one can behold.

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

Reader: (1) Illumine my soul, O most hymned Virgin Theotokos who gavest birth to the Effulgence of the Father's glory; for, having thy true grace, we abstain from blasphemous speech.

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.

Reader: God is gone up in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet.

Troparia
(Thematic Hymns)

Choir: (Festal Troparion, Tone 4)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / having gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; / and they were assured by the blessing / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world.

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

(Troparion of the Apostle, Tone 2)

O Apostle beloved of Christ our God, / hasten to deliver a defenceless people. / He that allowed thee to recline on His breast, / receiveth thee bowing in intercession. / Implore Him, O Theologian, / to dispel the persistent cloud of the heathen, // and ask for us His peace and great mercy.

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

(Festal Troparion, Tone 4)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / having gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; / and they were assured by the blessing / that Thou art the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world.

Trisagion Hymn
(Thrice-Holy)

+ 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 Prokimenon in the 7th Tone: Be Thou exalted above the heavens, O God, and Thy glory above all the earth.

Choir: Be Thou exalted above the heavens, O God, and Thy glory above all the earth.

Reader: Ready is my heart, O God, ready is my heart; I will sing and chant in my glory.

Choir: Be Thou exalted above the heavens, O God, and Thy glory above all the earth.

Reader: In the 8th Tone: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Choir: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Epistle Reading
(Acts 1:1-12; I John 1:1-7)

Reader: The Reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, * Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: * To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: * And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. * For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. * When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? * And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. * But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. * And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. * And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; * Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; * (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) * That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. * And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. * This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. * If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: * But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Alleluia
(Praise ye the Lord)

Reader: Alleluia in the 2nd Tone: God is gone up in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the 1st Tone: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Holy Gospel Reading
(Luke 24:36-53; John 19:25-27, 21:24-25)

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

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

Reader: At that time, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. * But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. * And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? * Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have * And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. * And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? * And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. * And he took it, and did eat before them. * And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. * Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, * And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: * And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at

Jerusalem. * And ye are witnesses of these things. * And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. * And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. * And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. * And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: * And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

At that time, there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. * When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! * Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. * This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. * And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Choir: (Tone 6)

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.

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.

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.

Choir: Amen.

Kontakia
(Thematic Hymns)

Choir: (Kontakion of the Apostle, Tone 2)

Who can tell of thy mighty works, O virgin Saint? / For thou pourest forth miracles, / and art a source of healings, / and thou dost intercede for our souls, // as the Theologian and friend of Christ.

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

(Festal Kontakion, Tone 6)

When Thou didst fulfil Thy dispensation for our sake, / uniting things on earth with the heavens, / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / departing not hence, but remaining inseparable from us, / and crying unto them that love Thee: // I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

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, from 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.

**Instead of “It is truly meet...” we chant the
Irmos of the 9th Ode of the 1st Canon of the feast, Tone 5:**

Choir: (Refrain)

Magnify, O my soul, / Christ the giver of life, // Who ascended from earth to Heaven.

(Irmos)

O thou who art God’s Mother transcending mind and word, / who ineffably in time gavest birth unto the Timeless One, / thee do we the faithful // magnify with one accord

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.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

O Lord, Bless.

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 all 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 all those with birthdays and namedays)

Choir:

God grant you many years!

God grant you many years!

God grant you many, many years!