

# Saint Mary Protectress Center

## Reader Service

(service without a priest)

### Sunday of the 318 Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council (325 AD), Sts Cyril and Methodius, Tone 6

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

+ 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 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:** (I 2) Remember me when Thou comest in Thy kingdom, O God my Saviour, and save me, for Thou alone lovest mankind.

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

**Reader:** (I 1) By a tree was Adam deceived; yet again by the Tree of the Cross was the thief saved, who cried out: Remember me in Thy kingdom, O Lord!

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

**Reader:** (10) O Bestower of life, Who hadst broken down the gates and portals of hades, Thou hast saved all who cry out to Thee, O Saviour: Glory to Thine arising!

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

**Reader:** (9) O Thou Who by Thy burial hast made death captive, and by Thy resurrection hast filled all with joy: remember me, in that Thou art compassionate.

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

**Reader:** (8) The mindless and ungodly Arius, impiously attributing change, suffering and separation to the divine nativity, is cut off by the severing sword of the fathers.

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

**Reader:** (7) Like the godly Abraham of old, the most honoured ones of divine eloquence who armed themselves with Thy power mightily destroyed Thy savage foes, O Good One.

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

**Reader:** (6) Assembling, the first council of Thy priests piously professed Thee to be the Creator of all, consubstantial with and begotten by the unoriginate Father, O Saviour.

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

**Reader:** (5) Neither the words or the tongue of mortals is able to praise thee as is meet, O Virgin; for from thee, without seed, was Christ, the Bestower of life, well pleased to become incarnate, O all-pure one.

**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) “Our God is like the deep of the sea, unfathomable by the mind and indescribable in words,” thou didst say to the Moslems who disputed with thee, O all-wise Cyril; “and some who attempt to sail across this deep in the leaky boats of their own intellect are drowned, falling into errors and heresies, while others are buffeted by incomprehension and doubt, knowing not how to sing: O Helmsman, save us, as Thou didst Peter!”

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

**Reader:** (3) Sunk deep in the abyss of their false understandings, the Moslems secretly offered thee deadly poison. But He Who said: “If ye drink anything deadly, it will not harm you”, preserved thee whole and returned thee with honour to the Imperial City. And, fittingly blessed by the emperor and patriarch, thou wast supremely exalted, crying: “O Helmsman, Thou hast saved me as Thou didst Peter!”

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

**Reader:** (2) The Holy Spirit once said to the disciples: “Separate for Me Barnabas and Saul for the task to which I have called them,” the enlightenment of the nations who are perishing in the abyss of ignorance of God; and He likewise commanded that ye be sent to the lands of the Slavs, O venerable fathers. And, illumined by the light of your teaching, people who sat in darkness and the shadow of death have cried out: “O Helmsman, Thou hast saved us as Thou didst Peter!”

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

**Reader:** (1) The uttermost abyss of sins hath encompassed me, and, beset with trembling and terrified of utter drowning, I offer thee entreaty, O all-immaculate one: Have mercy upon my passion-plagued soul! Stretch forth thy hands, in that thou art good, and as Thy Son saved Peter, so do thou save me, O thou who dost steer my soul.

**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 6)**

Angelic hosts were above Thy tomb, / and they that guarded Thee became as dead.  
/ And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate body. / Thou didst despoil  
Hades and wast not tempted by it. / Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us  
life. // O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

#### **(Troparion of the Fathers, Tone 8)**

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, / Who hast established our holy  
fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, / and through them didst guide us all to  
the true Faith. // O Most merciful One, glory be to Thee.

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

#### **(Troparion of the Saints, Tone 4)**

As ones equal in character to the Apostles / and as Teachers of the Slavic lands, /  
O divinely-wise Cyril and Methodios, / pray to the Lord of all, to strengthen all  
nations / in Orthodoxy and unity of thought, / to convert and reconcile the world  
to God, // and to save 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 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 4th Tone: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages.

**Choir:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages.

**Reader:** For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

**Choir:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages.

**Reader:** In the 7th Tone: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**Choir:** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**Epistle Reading**  
(Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; Hebrews 7:26-8:2)

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

In those days, Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost. \* And from Miletus, he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. \* And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons. \* Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. \* For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. \* Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. \* Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. \* And now, brethren, I commend you to

God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. \* I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. \* Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. \* I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. \* And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

Brethren: For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; \* Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. \* For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore. \* Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; \* A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

**Alleluia**  
(Praise ye the Lord)

**Reader:** Alleluia in the 1st Tone: The God of gods, the Lord hath spoken, and He hath called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the setting thereof.

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

**Reader:** Gather together unto Him his holy ones who have established His covenant upon sacrifices.

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

**Reader:** In the 2nd tone: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

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

**Holy Gospel Reading**  
(John 17:1-13; Matthew 5:14-19)

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

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

**Reader:** The Lord said: Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: \* As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. \* And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. \* I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. \* And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. \* I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. \* Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. \* For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. \* I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. \* And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. \* And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. \* While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. \* And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

The Lord said: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. \* Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. \* Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. \* Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. \* For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. \* Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**Choir:** 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 Fathers, Tone 8)

The preaching of the apostles and the doctrines of the fathers confirmed the one Faith of the Church. / And wearing the garment of truth, woven from the theology on high, // She rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

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

(Kontakion of the Saints, Tone 3)

Let us honour our sacred pair of enlighteners, / who, by translating the divine writings, / have poured forth for us a well-spring of divine knowledge / from which we draw abundantly even unto this day: / We call you blessed, O Cyril and Methodios, / ye who stand before the throne of the Most High // and intercede fervently for our souls.

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

(Kontakion of the Ascension, Tone 6)

When Thou didst fulfill 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.

(Troparion of the Ascension, 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.

**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!