

Saint Mary Protectress Center

Reader Service

(service without a priest)

16th Sunday After Pentecost, Martyr Sozon, Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Tone 7

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.

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) The fruit which slew me was beautiful and good to eat; but Christ is the Tree of life, and eating of Him I do not die, but cry out with the thief: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom!

Choir: Blessed are they that mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

Reader: (11) O Compassionate One, Who wast lifted up upon the Cross, Thou hast erased the record of Adam's ancient sin, and hast saved the whole human race from deception. Wherefore, we hymn Thee, O Lord and Benefactor.

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

Reader: (10) Thou didst nail our sins to the Cross, O compassionate Christ, and by Thy death Thou didst slay death, O Thou who didst raise up the dead from among the dead. Wherefore, we worship Thy holy resurrection.

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

Reader: (9) The serpent once poured its venom into the ears of Eve; but on the tree of the Cross, Christ poured forth the sweetness of life upon the world. Wherefore, we cry out: Remember us, O Lord, in Thy kingdom!

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

Reader: (8) A fertile land is born of a barren land, bearing as fruit the Husbandman of all good things, the life-bearing Grain Who nourisheth all by His divine gesture.

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

Reader: (7) Today hath the rod of virginity sprouted forth, from whence our God, the Gardener, doth blossom forth as a flower, cutting down the branches of wickedness by His extreme beauty.

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

Reader: (6) Lo! the mountain unquarried, which arose from a barren rock, produceth the noetically quarried Stone, Who crusheth the falsehood of all graven idols.

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

Reader: (5) Lo! the mountain unquarried, which arose from a barren rock,
produceth the noetically quarried Stone, Who crusheth the falsehood of all graven
idols.

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) Desiring to be slain as an unblemished sacrifice, for the sake of
God's love, thou didst offer thyself up on His altar. Wherefore, we piously honor
thee, O all-lauded one.

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

Reader: (3) Having sailed over the deep of deception without foundering, thou
didst attain unto the haven of the kingdom on high, O blessed martyr, enjoying
everlasting calm.

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

Reader: (2) The tormentor pitilessly raked thy sides with claws of iron; but thou
didst gloriously commit thy spirit into the hands of God, O ever-memorable and
most blessed one.

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

Reader: (1) O wonder more recent than all wonders! The Virgin, having
conceived in her womb, without knowing man, Him Who sustaineth all things, did
not confine Him.

Introit
(Entry Hymn)

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 7)

Thou didst destroy death by Thy Cross, / Thou didst open paradise to the thief. /
Thou didst change the lamentation of the Myrrh-bearers, / and Thou didst
command Thine Apostles to proclaim / that Thou didst arise, O Christ God, // and
grantest to the world great mercy.

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

(Troparion of the Martyr, Tone 4)

In his sufferings O Lord, / Thy martyr Sozon hath received an imperishable crown
from Thee, our God; / for, possessed of Thy might, / he set at nought his
tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications
save Thou our souls.

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

(Troparion of the Forefeast, Tone 4)

Mary, the divine Maiden, is born unto us today / from the root of Jesse and the
loins of David; / and all things rejoice and are made new through joy. / Rejoice
together, O heaven and earth! / Praise her, ye lands of the gentiles! / Joachim
maketh glad, and Anna holdeth festival, crying aloud: // A barren woman giveth
birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life!

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 6th Tone: Save, O Lord,Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Choir: Save, O Lord,Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry; O my God, be not silent unto me.

Choir: Save, O Lord,Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: In the 7th Tone:The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Choir: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Epistle Reading
(Galatians 6:11-18; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

Reader: The Reading is from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Brethren: Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.* As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.* For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.* But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.* For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.* And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.* From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.* Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.Amen.

Brethren: We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.* (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) * Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: * But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities,in distresses,* In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;* By

pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, * By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, * By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; * As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; * As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Alleliua
(Praise ye the Lord)

Reader: Alleluia in the 1st Tone: I have raised up one chosen out of my people; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For My hand shall be unto Him an ally, and Mine arm shall strengthen him.

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.

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Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Holy Gospel Reading
(John 3:13-17; Matthew 25:14-30; John 15:17-16:2)

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

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

Reader: The Lord said: No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. * And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: * That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. * For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. * For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

The Lord spake this parable: For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.* And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.* Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.* And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.* But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.* After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.* And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou didst deliver unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.* His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.* He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou didst deliver unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.* His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.* Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:* And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.* His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:* Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.* Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.* For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.* And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Lord said to His disciples: These things I command you, that ye love one another.* If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.* If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.* Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.* But all these things will they do unto you for my

name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.* If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.* He that hateth me hateth my Father also.* If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.* But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.* But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:* And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.* These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.* They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

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 6) No longer will the dominion of death be able to keep men captive; / for Christ hath descended, demolishing and destroying the powers thereof. / Hades is bound; / the prophets rejoice with one voice, saying: / A Saviour hath come for them that have faith. // Come forth, ye faithful, for the Resurrection.

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

(Kontakion of the Martyr, Tone 2) Assembling today, with a loud voice let us praise Sozon, / the true and divinely wise martyr, the skilled athlete of piety, / the initiate of the mysteries of grace, / the most generous bestower of healings: // for he entreateth Christ God in behalf of us all.

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

(Kontakion of the Forefeast, Tone 3) Today Mary, the Virgin and Theotokos, / the boundless chamber of the heavenly Bridegroom, is born! / From a barren woman, by the counsel of God, / the chariot of the Word is rightly adorned; // for she was foretold as the divine portal and Mother of life.

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.

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 with birthdays and namedays)

Choir:

God grant you many years!

God grant you many years!

God grant you many, many years!

Save them O Christ God!

Save them O Christ God!

Save them O Christ God!

God grant you many years!

God grant you many years!

God grant you many, many years!

Patronal Hymns

(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.

(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.