

# THE SERVICE OF READER'S VESPERS FOR USE AT HOME

With Hymns and Readings for the Annunciation: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

*When Vespers is sung in Church, there will normally be a Reader and Choir, as is usual in Church services. If you are using the service at home, the 'Reader' may be the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – or simply the most confident reader or singer. The parts marked for the 'Choir' can be read or sung by everyone together, or by one person alone. Music for some parts may be found on the website: <https://orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/services/>*

*If no one present is a confident singer, the service can be chanted on one note, or simply read. You may prefer to use parts of the service in your own language. If so, please make sure that the prayers are read from an Orthodox prayer book or service book.*

## Before the Service

*If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. A lamp or candle should be lit before the Service begins. You may wish to have other, unlit, candles that can be lit during the hymn 'O Gladsome Light'. If you have charcoal and incense, light the charcoal before the Service begins, and have incense ready to place on the hot charcoal during "Lord, I call upon Thee".*

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**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who art in all places and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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 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 the evil one.

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

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 our God.

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

## PSALM 103

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (3 times)

**In place of the GREAT LITANY:**

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

*Immediately afterwards, the Choir sings "Lord, I call upon Thee". If you have charcoal and incense, place the incense on the hot charcoal in the censer. If it is appropriate and safe to do so, the senior person (e.g. a parent or grandparent) or an older child, may cense the icons and everyone present with the hand censer.*

**"LORD, I CALL UPON THEE"**

**Tone 8**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

[Music on website]

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Thy sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

### **Tone 8**

Today, as we pass the middle of Lent  
by the might of the Cross  
let us glorify the One Who was raised upon it in the midst of the earth!  
Let us glorify our mighty Saviour and our God, crying out:  
“O Master, let us behold Thy Passion and Thy holy Resurrection,//  
and grant us forgiveness and great mercy!”

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

Let us humble our fleshly passions  
by abstaining from food and turning away from pleasures!  
Let us with faith embrace the Wood of the Cross!  
It is exalted before us for our veneration  
and sanctifies all with divine grace.  
So let us cry aloud to the Lord:  
“We give thanks to Thee, O compassionate One,//  
for Thou art saving our souls through the Cross!”

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

### **Tone 8 (From the Lenten Triodion)**

As we all venerate the Cross, let us cry:  
“Rejoice, Tree of life!  
Rejoice, holy sceptre of Christ!  
Rejoice, heavenly glory of man!  
Rejoice, majesty of faith!  
Rejoice, invincible weapon!  
Rejoice, vanquisher of enemies!  
Rejoice, shining radiance that saves the world!  
Rejoice, great glory of martyrs!  
Rejoice, power of saints!  
Rejoice, light of the angels!//  
Rejoice, O precious Cross!”

*For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

### **Tone 6 (From the Menaion, for the Feast)**

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel,  
Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maiden,  
and greeting thee, he said:  
“Rejoice, Earth that has not been sown!  
Rejoice, burning Bush that remains unconsumed!  
Rejoice, unsearchable Depth!  
Rejoice, Bridge that leads to Heaven!  
Rejoice, Ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!  
Rejoice, divine Jar of manna!  
Rejoice, Deliverance from the curse!  
Rejoice, Restoration of Adam;//  
the Lord is with thee!”

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

*Repeat:* Revealing to thee ...

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

“Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,”  
said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.  
“How then dost thou speak to me of things that pass man’s power?  
Thou hast said that God shall be with me  
and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.  
How shall I become the spacious habitation  
and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?  
Do not deceive me with trickery;  
for I have not known pleasure,  
I have not entered into wedlock.//  
How then shall I bear a Child?”

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

*Repeat:* Thou dost appear to me ...

*For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Then the bodiless Angel replied:  
“When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,  
and what is beyond man comes to pass.  
Believe that my sayings are true,  
O all-holy and immaculate Lady!”  
And she cried aloud:  
“Let it be to me according to thy word,  
and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!  
He shall borrow flesh from me,  
that through this union of natures  
He may lead man up to his ancient glory.//  
for He alone has power so to do.”

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

### **Tone 6** *(For the Feast)*

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven,  
to announce to the Virgin the good news of her conceiving.  
And coming to Nazareth, he was filled with wonder at the miracle,  
and reasoned within himself:  
“How is it that He Who dwells on high, Whom none can comprehend,  
is to be born of a Virgin?  
How is He, Whose throne is Heaven and Whose footstool is the earth,  
to be contained in the womb of a woman?  
He upon Whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim are not able to gaze  
is well-pleased to be made flesh from her at a single word.  
It is the Word of God Who is to come.  
Why then do I hesitate, and not say to the Maiden:  
‘Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!  
Rejoice, pure Virgin!  
Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!  
Rejoice, Mother of the Life!//  
Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!’”

## O GLADSOME LIGHT

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed, Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, thou Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

## PROKEIMENA AND READINGS

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone.

**Reader:** Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee.

**Choir:** Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee.

**Reader:** Deliver my soul from fear of the enemy.

**Choir:** Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee.

**Reader:** Hear my voice, O God

**Choir:** when I pray to Thee.

**Reader:** The Reading from the Book of Genesis

[Genesis 8:21 – 9:7]

**Reader:** When the Lord smelled the pleasing odour, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every bird of the air, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. For your lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning; of every beast I will require it and of man; of every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image. And you, be fruitful and multiply, bring forth abundantly on the earth and multiply in it."

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone.

**Reader:** Hear us, O God of our salvation, Who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas.

**Choir:** Hear us, O God of our salvation, Who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas.

**Reader:** Praise is due to Thee, O God, in Zion, and to Thee shall vows be performed.

**Choir:** Hear us, O God of our salvation, Who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas.

**Reader:** Hear us, O God of our salvation,

**Choir:** Who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas.

**Reader:** The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.

[Proverbs 11:19 – 12:6]

**Reader:** He who is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die. Men of perverse mind are an abomination to the Lord, but those of blameless ways are his delight. Be assured, an evil man will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will be delivered. Like a gold ring in a swine's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion. The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath. One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it. He who diligently seeks good seeks favour, but evil comes to him who searches for it. He who trusts in his riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. He who troubles his household will inherit wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but lawlessness takes away lives. If the righteous is requited on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner! Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. A good man obtains favour from the Lord, but a man of evil devices he condemns. A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved. A good wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones. The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are treacherous. The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers men.

**Reader:** The reading from the book of Genesis.

[Genesis 28:10 – 17]

**Reader:** Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

**Reader:** The reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

[Ezekiel 43:27 – 44:4]

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

**Reader:** The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.

[Proverbs 9:1 – 11]

**Reader:** Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproveth a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life."

### **VOUCHSAFE, O LORD**

**Reader:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, is forever; despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**In place of the LITANY OF SUPPLICATION:**

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

### **THE APOSTICHA**

**Tone 8** *(From the Lenten Triodion)*

The proud Pharisee was rejected for his boasting,  
but the humble Publican was justified through his silent prayer.

O my soul, learn the difference between the two;  
choose humility and accept it in your heart,  
for Christ has promised to give grace to the humble,//  
for He is the Lover of man.

*V. Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven! Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.*

*Repeat:* The proud Pharisee ...

*V. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.*

**Tone 8 (For the Martyrs)**

Entreat our God, O martyrs of the Lord,  
and beseech abundant mercy for our souls, //  
and forgiveness of our many transgressions!

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

**Tone 4 (From the Menaion, for the Feast)**

Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed,  
today is the festival of the Virgin;  
things below are joined together with things on high.

Adam is made new;

Eve is freed from the primal grief;

and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed,  
the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God.

Oh, what a mystery!

The manner of His emptying cannot be known;  
the manner of His conception is beyond speech.

An angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son;  
the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased,  
and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass  
in which and through which we are saved.

For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel's,  
crying aloud to the Virgin:

"Rejoice, O Lady Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!

From thee is our salvation, Christ our God,

Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself. //

Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!"

**THE PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON, THE GOD-RECEIVER**

**Reader:** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,  
according to Thy word;  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

**TRISAGION PRAYERS**

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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 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 the evil one.

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

### THE TROPARION

#### Tone 4

[[Music on website](#)]

Today is the beginning of our salvation,  
The revelation of the eternal mystery!  
The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin  
As Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.  
Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:  
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee.

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

*Repeat:* Today is the beginning of our salvation ...

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

*Repeat:* Today is the beginning of our salvation ...

**In place of the AUGMENTED LITANY:**

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

### THE PRAYER OF SAINT EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

**Reader:** O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust for power and idle talk. *(Prostration)*

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. *(Prostration)*

Yea, O my Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults, and not to judge my brother. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Prostration)*

O all-holy Trinity, consubstantial Might, Kingdom undivided, Source of all good: be gracious to me, a sinner; establish and give understanding to my heart; and take away from me every defilement. Enlighten my mind, that I may continually glorify, hymn and worship Thee and say:

One is holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore. *(Metania)*

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore. *(Metania)*

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore. *(Metania)*

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

**Reader:** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you



the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He kept all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

**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.

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.

More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without defilement gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

### **THE LITTLE DISMISSAL**

**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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord!

**Reader:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure mother, whose Annunciation we celebrate; by the power of the honourable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; and of all Thy saints, have mercy upon us and save us.

**Choir:** Amen.

*If you have an icon of the Annunciation (or any icon of the Mother of God) you may wish to reverence it while singing the Kontakion of the Feast:*

### **KONTAKION**

[Music on website]

To thee the champion leader  
we thy flock dedicate  
a feast of victory and of thanksgiving,  
as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos.  
But as thou art one with might which is invincible,  
from all dangers that can be, do thou deliver us;  
that we may cry to thee:  
Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded!

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.