

## Holy Week and Pascha at Home: Holy Thursday

*Before dinner, gather together for the Scriptural lessons of the day.*

Leader: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers and Mothers, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

O heavenly King, the Comforter and Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fills all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us and cleanse us from every 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: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

*Lord, have mercy. (3x)*

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your Name; Your kingdom come; Your 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 evil.

Amen. Come, let us worship God, our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before the very Christ, our King and our God!

(Psalm 104) Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who covers Yourself with light as with a garment; Who has stretched out the heavens like a tent. Who hast laid the beams of Your chambers on the waters, Who makes the clouds Your chariot, Who rides on the wings of the wind. Who makes Your angels spirits, and Your ministers a fiery flame. You set the earth on its foundations so that it should never be shaken. You covered it with the deep as with a garment. The waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which You appointed for them. You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. You make springs gush forth in the valleys, they

flow between the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From Your lofty abode You water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, fodder for the animals that serve man. That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons. The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away, and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom hast You made them all! The earth is full of Your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and the Leviathan which You formed to sport in it. These all look to You, to give them their food in due season. When You give it to them, they gather it up; when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things. When You hide Your face, they are dismayed; when You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created and You renew the face of the earth! May the glory of the Lord endure forever! May the Lord rejoice in His works. Who looks on the earth and it trembles! Who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing praises to my God while I have being! May my meditation be pleasing to Him for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Your works. In wisdom have You made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

**[READING 1]** The reading is from the book of Exodus

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

"And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

"You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

‘Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.”

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.” Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

**[READING 2]** The reading is from the book of Job.

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

“Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

“Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb;

When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band;

When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors;

When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!’

“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place,

That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment.

From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is broken.

“Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?

Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

“Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,  
That you may take it to its territory, that you may know the paths to its home?

Do you know it, because you were born then, or because the number of your days is great?

“Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail,  
Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

“I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.

**[READING 3]** The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

“The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. “For the Lord God will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.

Surely the Lord God will help Me; who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up. “Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God. Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled – this you shall have from My hand: you shall lie down in torment.

**[READING 4]** The reading is from the first epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and Sisters: For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

**[READING 5]** The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing. Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are

called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

*All: Glory to You, o Lord, glory to You.*

Leader: O Lord Almighty, we pray for our Metropolitan N., our Bishop N., for our civil authorities and armed forces. We pray for deliverance from the coronavirus, for the healing of those infected and of all who are sick, for the health and safety of all doctors, nurses, and medical workers, and for all your people.

All: Amen.

*In the evening, make a festive meal at table, with wine and bread.*

When partaking of the wine and bread, offer a blessing of thanksgiving to God in your own words. An adult offers the first blessing, followed by everyone else gathered at the table.

Leader: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, for providing us with food, drink, and shelter."

Each family member offers a blessing after the leader. Then the leader finishes with a petition:

"Have mercy, God, on the Church, the world, our civil authorities, and this family."