Reader’s Great Vespers on Friday December 25th, 2020

Venerable Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska and All America

(December 13th/26th)

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee O God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest 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. ***(Thrice)***

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. ***(Thrice)***

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.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord have mercy. ***Twelve 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 God.

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

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 labor 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. ***Thrice****.*

Lord, have mercy. ***Forty 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.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Arise O Lord, save me, O my God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Salvation belongs to the Lord: Thy blessing is upon Thy people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God. ***Three Times***

Lord, have mercy ***Three 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.

In the 2nd Tone: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me.

Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord. \* Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; \* attend to the voice of my supplication, \* when I cry unto Thee. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth \* as incense before Thee, \* the lifting up of my hands \* as an evening sacrifice. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.

For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.

I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.

In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.

Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.

I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.

Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison:  that I may confess Thy name.

The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

With what wreaths shall we crown the ven’rable Herman,

leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?

He left his native land and went to an untamed people,

to proclaim Christ and the Orthodox faith.

He was neither afraid nor terrified of the Enemy’s darkness,

but aided by divine grace, //

he enlightened a nation and led it to Christ, who has great

mercy.

For Thy name’s sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

With what wreaths shall we crown the ven’rable Herman,

leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?

He received the Valaam leavening of the Holy Spirit

and preached the Gospel to the Aleuts in word and deed,

disregarding, along with the flesh, all that is of the flesh.

With tears and prayers, with suffering and with prolonged fasting,

and with a most immortal love for the people, //

you led them to Christ, who has great mercy.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

With what wreaths shall we crown the ven’rable Herman,

leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?

Along with the struggle in the wilderness and the feat of holiness,

he accomplished the work of an apostle of Orthodoxy.

Laboring greatly, he saved the native peoples from the Evil One’s

 delusion,

receiving the grace of working wonders,

quenching the fires and turning back assaults of the waters. //

Having reached the end, he passed over to Christ, who has great mercy.

In the 4th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

You have given a sign to the Aleuts, O Lord,

by the hand of the monk Herman,

that they might powerfully entrust themselves to You, O Son of God;

that being saved from the demonic darkness,

they might enter Your Light without evening.

Therefore we glorify Your economy of love for mankind, //

O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

Like Your Apostles, O Lord,

the ven’rable Herman, dwelling by the ocean,

began catching not fish from water, but human souls.

With the help of Your grace his catch was mighty.

Having dragged the people to the solid shore of Orthodoxy,

He is glorified in Your presence.

Therefore we glorify Your economy of love for mankind, //

O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

In tender compassion, You accepted the struggle of the monk

Herman, O Lord,

and bestowed upon him the help of grace,

You completed his growth to the stature of Your Apostles,

and You received him into the dwellings of the Kingdom of Heaven,

granting him boldness to pray for the peoples.

Therefore we glorify Your economy of love for mankind, //

O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

In the 5th Tone: Glory…:

You sent forth Your Apostles, O Lord,

to proclaim the Gospel to all creation,

and latter times You sent out this man to bring Orthodoxy to the

Aleutian Islands.

And having sown the seed with grace,

he harvested abundantly a field of fruitfulness,

which remains, even till now, prospering in the Lord.

Therefore we pray to you, our ven’rable father Herman:

“Do not cease through your prayers to care for your people and all of

us, //

who lovingly celebrate your all-hon’rable memory!”

In the 3rd Tone: Now and ever... :

How can we not wonder at your mystical childbearing,

O exalted mother?

For, without receiving the touch of man,

you gave birth to a son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin!

The son born of the Father before eternity,

was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady!

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

O lady and virgin and mother, entreat him to save the souls,

of those who confess you in the orthodox manner //

to be the Theotokos.

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God.  Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with reverent voices, O Son of God, Giver of life.  Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

Thou, O God, art my Helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from my enemies, O God, and redeem me from them that rise up against me.

Thou, O God, art my Helper,/ and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Lord have mercy. ***Forty times***

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

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.  Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages.  Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.  Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.  Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes.  Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands.  To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.  Amen.

Lord, have mercy. ***Twelve 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.

In the 5th Tone:

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross,

the invincible weapon of Godliness,

the gate of Paradise, the protection of the faithful,

through which a new land is enlightened,

the corruption of idolatry is abolished,

and the power of death is crushed!

The Cross raises us from earth to heaven!

Rejoice and be glad, O faithful,

for the glory of the Cross, the hope of the new martyrs and father

Herman, //

is proclaimed in this land, granting the faithful great mercy!

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

Rejoice, holy teacher of Christ’s newly-chosen flock!

By the grace of the Word of God,

you enlighten hearts in the shadow of ignorance.

By the spirit of meekness and humility,

you instruct us in godliness,

by brotherly love and compassion, implanting the truth of faith.

O wonder-working father Herman,

preacher of the light of Christ,

as you banished the darkness of demons, enlighten our hearts, //

that, set free from the darkness of unbelief, we may obtain great mercy!

Verse: What shall I render to the Lord for all His bounties to me!

Rejoice, for you interceded for a newly-enlightened people

before the powers of this world.

With your life’s blood you were their advocate,

as well as their lowest nurse and servant.

As the friend of those suffering from incurable wounds,

you heard their groans and weeping by night and day.

You comforted them, drawing them to heavenly healing,

fearless shepherd of your flock,

yet you refrained from the honor of the priesthood. //

Rejoice, for you quenched material fire with the flame of faith!

In the 1st Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

We remember today the great teachers and ascetics, O holy father,

because of your deeds and example.

Your wondrous life confounded the enemy.

You conversed with angels! //

Together with them, pray for the salvation of our souls!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

###### Behold Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled!

For the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin!

God was born, and so nature was restored anew!

But do not despise the entreaties of your servants, O Mother of God.

We offer them to you in your temple.

Since you carried in your arms the Compassionate One,

have compassion on your servants, //

and pray that our souls may be saved.

Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. ***(Thrice)***

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. ***(Thrice)***

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.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Tone 7:

O joyful north star of the Church of Christ,

guiding all men to the heavenly Kingdom;

teacher and apostle of the true faith;

intercessor and defender of the oppressed;

adornment of the orthodox Church in America:

O blessèd father Herman of Alaska.

Pray to our Lord Jesus Christ //

for the salvation of our souls!

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.

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, Lord bless!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, of the Venerable Herman, Wonderworker of Alaska and All America, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.