Reader’s Vespers on Monday, July 6th, 2020

The Nativity of John the Baptist (June 24th/July 7th)

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 4th 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.

John is born, ending Zachariah’s silence.

The father cannot keep silent

when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born!

When at first, he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,

but now John has been born to free his father;

he is the voice of the Word, the forerunner of Light, //

who always intercedes for our souls!

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.

Today the voice of the Word is born,

releasing Zachariah’s silence;

revealing the harvest of the Church, and freeing the bonds of

barrenness.

The candlestick of the Light is drawing near!

The ray of the Sun proclaims his coming //

for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

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

The angel of God’s Word comes forth from the womb—

the greatest among those born of women;

the most high of the prophets.

Wonderful events precede the divine mystery:

a seedless conception, a marvelous birth! //

You have worked miracles for our salvation; glory to you!

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

Today the great Forerunner comes from the barren womb of Elizabeth;

the great prophet of prophets, none is greater than he!

The radiant candlestick of the Light, and voice of the Word,

the friend of the Bridegroom, preparing the Lord’s chosen people

by cleansing them with water before the coming of the Spirit.

The flower of the desert, the preacher of repentance,

the purification of transgressions,

has announced the Resurrection even to those in hell, //

and he always prays for our souls.

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

Today the Prophet and Forerunner appears from the womb—

John, the Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When he saw the Queen come to her servant,

bearing in her womb the timeless God, //

he leaped in his mother’s womb and sang for joy!

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

O most glorious wonder!

Zachariah asked the angel of the Word:

“How can Elizabeth conceive and bear a son?

I am an old man; my wife is advanced in years.”

For his unbelief he was condemned to silence,

but today he beholds the birth and regains his speech,

entering into joy and crying out:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, //

who grants to the world great mercy!”

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Today the Forerunner heralds the coming of the Word of God;

today Zachariah’s silence is freed,

for the father cannot remain silent at the nativity of the Forerunner, //

who will proclaim the world’s deliverance with great boldness!

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

Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of grace;

the Virgin conceived the King of Glory!

Both mothers greeted each other with a kiss.

The infant leaped in the womb, praising his Master!

His mother was amazed and cried:

“Why is this granted me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? //

He will save the forsaken people, since he possesses great mercy!”

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 4th Tone:

The Lord hears me when I call to Him

Verse: When I called the God of my righteousness heard me.

The Lord hears me/ when I call to Him

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

And God said to Abraham, Sarai thy wife-her name shall not be called Sarai; Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and give thee a son of her, and I will bless him, and he shall become nations, and kings of nations shall be of him. And Abraham fell upon his face, and spake in his mind, saying: "Shall there be a child to one who is a hundred years old, and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, beareth" And God said to Abraham: "Yea, behold, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name Isaac; and I will establish my covenant with him, for an everlasting covenant." And Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in days. And Sarah laughed within herself, saying: "The thing hath not yet happened to me, even until now, and my lord is old." And the Lord God said to Abraham: "Why is it that Sarah hath laughed in herself, saying: 'Shall I then indeed bear? But I am grown old.' Shall anything be impossible with the Lord?" And the Lord God visited Sarah, as He said, and the Lord did to Sarah, as He spake. And Abraham circumcised his son on the eighth day, as the Lord God commanded him. And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was born to him. And Sarah said: "The Lord hath made laughter for me, for whosoever shall hear shall rejoice with me." And she said: "Who shall say to Abraham that Sarah suckles a child? For I have borne a child in mine old age." And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast the day his son Isaac was weaned.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES

In those days, there was a man of the tribe of Dan, and his name was Manoah, and his wife was barren and bore not. And an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her: "Behold, thou art barren; yet thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bear a son. But now be very cautious, and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing. For, lot thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear a son. And there shall come no razor upon his head, and the child shall be consecrated to God from birth. And the woman went, and spake to her husband, saying: "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was as of an angel of God, exceeding bright. And he said: 'Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear a son. And now, drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing; for the child shall be consecrated to God from his birth even unto the day of his death. '" And Manoah prayed to God, and said: "O Lord, let the man of God, whom Thou didst send to me, come to us again, and enlighten us as to what we should do when the child is born." And the angel of the Lord came to Manoah and said: "Of all things concerning which I spoke to the woman, she shall beware. She shall eat of nothing that cometh of the vine yielding wine, and let her not drink wine or strong liquor." And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord: "What is thy name, that when what thou hast said will come to pass, we may glorify thee?" And the angel of the Lord said to him: "Wherefore dost thou thus ask after my name, whereas it is awesome?" And the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife.

A READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH

Thus saith the Lord: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith God. Speak, ye priests, to the heart of Jerusalem; comfort her, for her humiliation is accomplished, her sin is put away: for she hath received from the Lord's hand double the amount of her sins. The voice of one is heard crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. O thou who bringest good tidings to Sion, go thou up upon the high mountain; lift up thy voice with strength, O thou who bringest glad tidings to Jerusalem. Lift it up; fear not I, the Lord God, I will hearken to the poor of Israel, and will not forsake them. But I will open rivers on the mountains, and fountains in the midst of the plain; I will make the desert into a meadow, and a thirsty land springs of water. Let heaven rejoice from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth bring forth and blossom with mercy, and let righteousness shine forth likewise. Utter aloud a voice of joy, and it shall be heard; proclaim it even unto the ends of the earth. Say ye that the Lord hath delivered His servant Jacob. And if they shall thirst, He shall lead them through the desert; He shall bring forth water for them out of the rock. Be glad, thou barren woman who bearest not; break forth and cry, O thou who dost not travail: for more are the children of the desolate than of her who hath a husband.

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 2nd Tone:

Let us praise John with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs!

The prophet of prophets, the flower of barrenness!

The citizen of the desert, the greatest among those born of women!

O Baptizer and Forerunner of the Savior,

since you have boldness before Christ in your birth,

entreat him to grant peace to the world, //

and to our souls great mercy!

Verse: ***Blessèd be the Lord God of Israel: for he has visited and redeemed his***

***people!***

The voice of the Word of grace has come—

the preacher of the Light of Light.

He is born from the barren womb of Elizabeth.

Rejoice, O people, for he comes preparing the way of salvation for us.

He leaped in the womb and worshipped His Master,

the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world //

and grants us great mercy

## Verse: ***And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High!***

Today John blossoms from his mother’s barren womb;

he becomes the last of the prophets.

With boldness, he announces the coming of the Lord: //

“Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Today the voice of Isaiah the prophet is fulfilled

in the birth of John, the greatest of the prophets.

He said: “Behold, I will send my angel before your face, to prepare your

way!”

Now the warrior of the Heavenly King has come.

He truly will prepare the way for our God.

A man by nature, but an angel in manner of life,

he embraced purity and chastity forever.

Now they are his by nature.

Let us all, the faithful, greet him, crying: //

“Pray for us, that our souls my be saved!”

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

Elizabeth greeted the Virgin Mary:

“Why is it that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?

You bear the King, and I, his soldier.

You, the Lawgiver, and I, the proclaimer.

You bear the Word, and I, the voice //

which preaches the Kingdom of Heaven!”

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 4:

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,

although we cannot praise you worthily,

we honor you with love at your nativity,

for by it, you ended your father’s silence and your mother’s

barrenness, //

proclaiming the incarnation of God’s Son to the world!

Glory … now and ever…:

The mystery hidden from eternity

unknown even to the angels

is revealed to those on earth through you, O Theotokos:

God incarnate of you by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us

by which he resurrected the first-created man, //

saving our souls from death.

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 Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.