Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, January 30th

34th Sunday After Pentecost; Our Fathers Among the Saints, Athanasius and Cyril, the Great Archbishops of Alexandria; Tone 1

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 1st 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.

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins, //

for thou alone hast manifested the resurrection to the world!

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.

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One who rose from the dead!

For he is our God, //

who has delivered us from our transgressions!

In the 4th Tone: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

You braved dangers and patiently suffered persecution,

O righteous Athanasius the divine orator.

You exposed the wicked lies of Arius and his followers;

you proclaimed the doctrine of the true faith, O most-blessèd priest: //

the Son and Spirit are one essence with the Father.

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

The lightning-flash of your preaching

enlightens those in darkness.

You chase away all false doctrine.

You bore the brunt of the battle for the faith,

O Athanasius, the firm-foundation rock!

True shepherd and unshaken fortress of Christ’s holy Church!

### Therefore we assemble in your honor, //

and joyfully magnify you, O all-praised father!

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

By the fire of your teachings, O wise Cyril,

the dry wood and chaff of heresy is burned away.

The host of the impious are drowned;

the faithless sink in the abyss of your teachings.

By your doctrine, O blessèd Cyril,

ev’ry member of the believing Church is adorned, //

and with a mighty voice honors you.

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

By the eloquence of your words, O Cyril,

the whole Church is adorned with piety.

She honors the fruits that your teaching has borne,

and glorifies your memory,

O leader of the right-believing Fathers, //

who defended the all-holy Theotokos as a champion at the council!

In the 6th Tone: Glory…:

Assemble, O lovers of feasts and praise your leaders with spiritual

songs!

They are our exalted Patriarchs,

the all-radiant enlighteners of the world!

They have revealed the mystery of Christ to us.

Therefore, let us cry out to them:

Rejoice, O wise Athanasius!

Your name means the “immortal one.”

You drew a string from the lyre of your inspired doctrine,

and made a sling to drive Arius the wolf from the flock of Christ.

Rejoice, O bright star, the all-blessèd Cyril:

champion of the ever-Virgin one!

In the midst of the council at Ephesus,

you defended the Theotokos with a roaring voice!

Rejoice, fountains of theology

and ever-flowing rivers of divine wisdom,

which floods your banks with knowledge of God.

Never cease to beseech Christ, O thrice-blessèd Fathers, //

for those who keep your holy memory with faith and love!

In the 1st Tone: Now and ever... :

Let us praise the Virgin Mary,

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world,

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace, she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord whom she bore!

Courage, courage, O people of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies //

since he is all-powerful.

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.

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

 The Lord is robed with strength, and has girded Himself

 For He has established the world so that it should never be moved

 Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore

 The Lord is King,/ He is robed in majesty!

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.

At the Apostikha: In the 1st Tone:

We have been freed from sufferings

by thy suffering, O Christ.

We have been delivered from corruption by thy resurrection. //

O Lord, glory to thee!

Verse: The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty!

Let creation rejoice!

Let the heavens be glad!

Let the nations clap their hands with gladness!

For Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the cross.

Slaying death, he has given life. //

He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of Man.

Verse: For he has established the world so that it shall never be moved!

As King of heaven and earth,

thou wast voluntarily crucified in thy love for man.

Hell was angered when it met thee below.

Adam rose, seeing thee the Creator, under the earth.

O wonder!

How has the Life of all tasted death?

Thou didst enlighten the world, which cries: //

“O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!”

Verse: Holiness befits thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

The myrrh-bearing women came with haste to thy tomb,

bearing myrrh and lamentations.

Not finding thy most pure body,

they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.

They told the Apostles: //

“The Lord is risen, granting to the world great mercy!”

In the 8th Tone: Glory …:

With hymns let us the faithful honor Athanasius and Cyril,

the summits of hierarchs and far-shining luminaries of the world;

and let us joyfully cry out to Christ:

“O compassionate Lord, by the entreaties of our teachers, //

grant Your people the forgiveness of sins and great mercy.”

Now and ever... :

O unwedded Virgin!/ thou who ineffably conceived God in the flesh,/ Mother of God Most High:/ accept the supplications of thy servants, O all-immaculate one,/ granting unto all cleansing of transgressions;/ and, accepting now our supplications,// pray thou that we all 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, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

In the 1st Tone:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews

while the soldiers were guarding thy most pure body

thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven, therefore, cried to thee, O Giver of Life: //

“Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to thy Kingdom!

Glory to thy dispensation, O thou who lovest mankind.”

In the 3rd Tone: Glory…:

You shone forth with works of Orthodoxy and quenched all heresy,

### and became victorious trophy-bearers, O hierarchs Athanasius and

Cyril.

You enriched the world with true piety and greatly adorned the

Church,

### and worthily found Christ our God, //

who by your prayers grants great mercy to all.

Now and ever...:

We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race,/ O Virgin Theotokos;/ for thy Son and our God,/ accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh/ He had received of thee,/ hath delivered us from corruption,// in that He is the Lover of mankind.

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 our Fathers Among the Saints, Athanasius and Cyril, the Great Archbishops of Alexandria, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.