Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, March 28th

Service for tSt John Climacus (4th Sunday of Lent)

Tone 8

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

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all 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 8th 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.

We offer to thee, O Christ,

our evening song and reasonable service!

For thou didst will to have mercy on us //

by thy resurrection!

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.

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from thy face!

For thou didst will to have mercy on us //

by thy resurrection!

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion!

Mother of the churches, the abode of God!

For you were the first to receive remission of sins //

by the resurrection!

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

The Lord’s praises were always on your lips, O holy father John.

With deep wisdom you searched the scriptures

which teach us to deny ourselves.

#### You became rich in the blessings of grace, //

thereby overthrowing the craftiness of the devil.

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

You washed your soul in a fountain of tears,

O most glorious father John,

You kept vigil for God, and gained his mercy.

Upborne on the wings of prayer,

you flew to divine love and beauty.

Now you dwell in his spiritual light and unending joy, //

together with your fellow soldiers, O holy one.

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

On the wings of faith you raised your mind to God, O holy father John.

You hated this world’s confusion and vanity,

and took up your Cross and followed him who sees all things.

You submitted your rebellious flesh to his guidance,

through the discipline of self-denial, //

by the power of the Holy Spirit!

In the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O holy father John,

after hearing the Lord’s voice in the Gospel,

you spurned the riches and glory of the world.

Now you cry out to all:

“Love God, and find eternal grace!

Set nothing as higher than his love,

so you will find rest with all the saints,

when he comes in glory!” //

Through his prayers, guard and save our souls, O Christ!

The Dogmatikon in the 8th Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The King of heaven, because of his love for man,

appeared on earth and dwelt with men.

He took flesh from the pure Virgin

and after assuming it, he came forth from her.

The Son is One in two natures, yet one Person.

Proclaiming him as perfect God and perfect man,

we confess Christ our God! //

Entreat him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls!

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.

In the 8th Tone:

Descending from Heaven to ascend the Cross,

the Eternal Life has come for death

to raise those who are fallen,

to enlighten those in darkness! //

O Jesus, our Savior and Illuminator, glory to thee!

The Lord is King He is robed in majesty!

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead!

He accepted the human body and soul,

and freed both from suffering!

His most pure soul descended to Hell, which he spoiled!

His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb! //

He is the Redeemer of our souls!

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

In psalms and songs we glorify thy resurrection from the dead, O Christ!

By it, thou hast freed us from the tortures of Hell, //

and as God hast granted eternal life and great mercy!

Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of Heaven and earth!

By thy suffering on the Cross thou hast gained passionlessness for me!

Accepting burial and arising in glory,

thou didst resurrect Adam with thyself by thine almighty hand!

Glory to thy rising on the third day!

By it thou hast granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins //

as the only compassionate One!

In the 2nd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Let us honor John!

He is an earthly angel and heavenly man!

The adornment of the world, the joy of the faithful!

The glory of ascetics!

He was planted in the house of God,

and blossomed with the flower of sanctity!

He flourished in the desert like a cedar of Lebanon! //

Through him the sheep of Christ’s flock grow in holiness and

righteousness!

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

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!

Who knows of a mother who gave birth without a man,

who carried in her arms her creator?

This birth is the will of God!

Since you carried him as an infant in your arms, O most pure one,

and since you possess motherly boldness before him:

do not cease praying for us who honor you, //

that he may be bountiful and save our souls!

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 8th Tone: Thou didst descend from on high, O merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three-day burial

to free us from our sufferings! //

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

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

O dweller in the wilderness and angel in the body,

you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing father John!

You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer:

Healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith:

Glory to him who gave you strength!

Glory to him who granted you a crown! //

Glory to him who through you grants healing to all!

In the same Tone: Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

When Gabriel announced to thee, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”/ with that word the Master of all was incarnate in thee,/ the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!/ Thy womb became more spacious than the heavens,/ for thou didst carry thy Creator./ Glory to Him Who took abode in thee!/ Glory to Him Who came forth from thee!// Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of thee!

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 Venerable Father John Climacus, of our holy fathers, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.