Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, April 4th

Service for St Mary of Egypt (5th Sunday of Lent)

Tone 1

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 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!

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

Come, O people!

Let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying his resurrection from the dead!

###### For he is our God, //

who has delivered the world from the Enemy’s deceit!

In the 6th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

### The pollution of previous sins

prevented you from entering the Church

to see the elevation of the holy Cross;

but then your conscience

and the awareness of your actions

turned you to a better way of life, O mother Mary!

When you had looked upon the icon of the blessèd Maiden of God,

you condemned all your earlier transgressions.

Then with confidence, O mother worthy of all praise, //

you went to venerate the precious Cross!

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

After worshipping at the holy places with great joy,

you received saving grace for the journey of virtue.

With haste you set out joyfully upon the good path you had chosen.

You crossed the stream of the Jordan,

eagerly going to live in the dwelling place of the Forerunner.

You tamed the savagery of the passions by your ascetic way of life;

you boldly broke the rebelliousness of the flesh through abstinence, //

O ever-glorious mother Mary!

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

After making your dwelling in the wilderness,

you devoutly blotted out the images of your sensual passions from your

soul,

and marked upon it the God-given imprints of the virtues.

### You attained such glory

### that you walked lightly across the waters on foot

and were elevated above the ground!

Now, O all-glorious Mary,

as you stand with boldness before Christ, //

pray to him on behalf of our souls!

In the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The power of your Cross has worked a wonder, O Christ!

Through it a harlot became a champion of the ascetic life!

She cast aside her weakness, and bravely fought the devil,

and having won the prize of victory, //

she ceaselessly prays for our souls!

The Dogmatikon in the 1st Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

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!

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.

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!”

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 2nd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

You cut down with the sword of abstinence

the passions of your flesh

and the corrupt desires of your soul!

With the silence of the wilderness,

you strangled your sinful words and thoughts;

you watered the desert with the streams of your tears!

You made the fruits of repentance to grow for us! //

We celebrate your memory, O holy mother Mary!

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

In you, O mother, was carefully preserved what is according to the

image

for you took up your cross and followed Christ.

By so doing you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away,

but to care instead for the soul for it is immortal. //

Therefore, O blessèd Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

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

For our sake you were born of a virgin,

and endured crucifixion, O good One, destroying death by death.

Revealing the resurrection as God, do not despise the work of your

hand!

### Reveal your love for man, O merciful One, and accept the Theotokos

praying for us,

and save your despairing people, O our Savior!

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 Mother Mary of Egypt, of our holy fathers, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.