Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, August 22nd

11th Sunday After Pentecost –– Postfeast of the Transfiguration –– Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome, and Those with Him –– Tone 2

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.

Come let us worship God the Word, \* begotten of the Father before all ages, \* incarnate of the Virgin Mary; \* for having endured the Cross, He was handed over for burial, \* as He himself had willed, \* and having risen from the dead He hath saved me, \* the whole man, \*\* who hath gone astray.

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.

Christ our Savior, by nailing the record against us to the Cross \* hath blotted it out, \* and destroyed the might of death. \*\* We worship His Arising on the third day.

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

Thou hast shone forth today \* in manifest splendor on Mount Tabor \* like the radiant sun, \* O Savior, Thou Word of the Father, \* showing Thy friends that Thou art He Who in His tender compassion \* didst assume human nature, O Christ. \* Wherefore, we glorify Thy loving dispensation, \* O almighty Jesus, \*\* Thou Savior of our souls.

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 angels of heaven rejoice with mankind, \* celebrating Thy glorious effulgence, O Christ, \* and Thine appearance upon Mount Tabor, \* whereon Thou didst stand \* in the presence of Moses and Elijah, \* and Peter, James and John, \* who hymned Thee, O Christ the Lover of mankind, \* almighty Jesus, \*\* Thou Savior of our souls.

Tone 1: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

Having served the Word blamelessly, O venerable one, \* thou wast offered unto the Lord as a sacrifice of sweet savor, \* consumed by material fire; \* wherefore thou hast been deemed worthy of the joy of heaven, \* where thou dost ever pray \* on behalf of those who honor thee, O Laurence.

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

Having laid thyself up as a treasure for the Lord \* and submitted to His words, \* O divinely blessed one, \* thou didst richly distribute inviolate wealth unto the poor, \* O wise martyr, \* wisely and wondrously enduring torments.

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

Before Thy crucifixion, O Lord, the mountain emulated the heavens and the cloud spread itself out like a tabernacle when Thou wast transfigured and borne witness to by the Father. There were Peter, James and John, for they were to be with Thee also at the time of Thy betrayal, that, beholding Thy wonders, they might not be afraid of Thy sufferings, which do Thou grant that we may venerate in peace, for the sake of Thy great mercy.

In the 2nd Tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

The shadow of the law hath passed now that grace hath come, \* for as the Bush wrapped in flame was not consumed, \* so didst thou bear a Child O Virgin \* and remained a Virgin; \* in place of a pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath dawned, \*\* instead of Moses, Christ is come, the salvation of 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 2nd Tone:

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, \* hath enlightened the whole universe; \* and Thou hast called back Thine own creation. \*\* O All-powerful Lord, glory be to Thee!

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

Nullifying the curse of the tree through a Tree, O Savior, \* Thou didst slay the might of death by Thy burial, \* enlightening our race by Thine Arising; \* wherefore we cry out to Thee; \* ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, \*\* glory be to Thee!’

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

Appearing nailed to the Cross, O Christ, \* Thou hast altered the beauty of all created things; \* and while the soldiers showed their inhumanity by piercing Thy side with a lance, \* the Hebrews asked that Thy tomb be sealed, \* not understanding Thy power; \* but in Thy merciful compassion Thou didst accept burial and rise on the third day. \*\* O Lord, glory be to Thee!

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

For the sake of mortal mankind, \* O Christ Giver of life, \* Thou didst willingly endure the Passion; \* and as all-powerful Thou didst descend into Hades, \* snatching from the hand of the mighty one \* the souls of those who awaited Thy coming therein \* granting them to dwell in Paradise instead of Hades, \* grant also unto us who glorify Thine Arising on the third day \*\* the pardon of our iniquities and Thy great mercy.

In the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Taking the disciples up upon the lofty mountain before Thy crucifixion, O Lord, Thou wast transfigured before them, illumining them with the effulgence of power, desiring both in Thy love for mankind and in Thine authority to show them the splendor of the resurrection, which do thou grant unto us in peace, in that Thou art merciful and the Lover of mankind.

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 2nd Tone:

 When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, \* then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Godhead. \* And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, \* all the Hosts of the heavens cried aloud: \*\* O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

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

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Laurence O Lord, \* received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; \* for, possessed of Thy might, \* he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. \*\* By his supplications save Thou our souls.

In the 7th Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ, our God, \* showing to Thy disciples Thy glory as each one could endure. \* Shine forth Thou on us, who are sinners all, \* Thy light ever-unending. \* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, \*\* Light-Bestower, glory to 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 the Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome and Those with Him, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.