Reader’s Great Vespers on Thursday February 11th, 2021

Synaxis of the Ecumenial Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom (January 30th/February 12th)

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.

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.

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

Let us worthily honor the instruments of grace:

John, Basil and Gregory,

the harps of the Spirit, the resounding trumpets of preaching,

who are awesome and clear in tone, //

and thunder from the heights to declare the glory of God to the ends of

the earth!

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

Let us worthily honor the three champions of the Trinity:

the bulwarks of devotion;

the three apostles added to the twelve,

rivers overflowing with living water from Eden

who flood the face of the earth with life-bearing and divine streams. //

They have formed the faith as the elements form creation.

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

There is no speech, nor are there words

which are not heard in their voices, he says;

for the proclamation of the godly and wise teachers

has gone out through all the earth and the sea of creation!

Therefore, through their divine precepts,

great things are gathered and assembled //

into one true doctrine for the ends of the earth.

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

Let us who follow their teachings

praise the instruments of the Holy Spirit with hymns:

They are the trumpets of truth, the words of orators!

Let us entreat them, for they are bold before the Lord,

### that He may always grant forgiveness to all //

and great peace to the whole world!

In the 6th Tone: Glory…:

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit, the God-bearing

fathers,

who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,

and praise the one changeless Trinity.

They laid low the errors of Arius and upheld the Orthodox faith. //

They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Now and ever... :

Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?

The Only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from you he was ineffably incarnate!

God by nature, yet man for our sake!

Not two persons, but one, known in two natures!

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessèd Lady, //

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.

The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

My help comes from the Lord, Who made Heaven and Earth.

Verse: I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come.

My help comes from the Lord,/ Who made Heaven and Earth.

**The Reading is from Deuteronomy!**

“’Behold, I have set the land before you; go in and take possession of the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their descendants after them.’ At that time I said to you, ‘I am not able alone to bear you; the LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are, and bless you, as He has promised you!’ So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes. And I charged your judges at that time, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the alien that is with him. You shall not be partial in judgment; you shall not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment is God’s; and the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.’”

**The Reading is from Deuteronomy!**

“Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; yet the LORD set His heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cleave to Him, and by His name you shall swear. He is your praise; He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrible things which your eyes have seen.”

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in the furnace He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect, and He watches over His holy ones.

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 Aposticha: Tone 5:

Rejoice, O trinity of faithful priests!

Pillars of the Church and teachers of righteousness;

models of perseverance for the faithful.

You crushed the arrogance of heresy.

You fed the flock of Christ with true doctrine,

protecting the sheepfold from the assaults of robbers.

You instruct us in the perfection of virtue, O preachers of grace:

heavenly guides who lead us to the gates of paradise: //

Pray to Christ that he may grant our souls great mercy.

Verse: Let the saints exalt in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

Rejoice, O trinity of faithful priests!

earthly angels and heavenly men:

the salvation of the world, the joy of the Church;

champions of the Word and teachers of the universe;

skillful physicians of spiritual ills,

ever-flowing rivers of the Spirit.

You have renewed the face of the earth with true theology;

You words are precious gold in the Church’s treasury, //

Pray to Christ that he may grant our souls great mercy.

Verse: Let Your priests be clothed in righteousness and Your saints shout for joy.

Rejoice, O trinity of faithful priests!

Radiant dawn of the Triune Godhead!

O wise Basil, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom:

To those in darkness you restored sight;

You are tablets written by the finger of God,

fragrant blossoms of paradise;

the delight of all who thirst for wisdom //

Pray to Christ that he may grant our souls great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Let us sound the trumpet of joy

and celebrate the feast of our teachers with gladness and song.

Let us praise the three rivers of doctrine who revive our weary hearts.

They faithfully proclaimed the mysteries of the Holy Trinity.

All you who love wisdom, bless the wise Hierarchs.

Let priests magnify these great shepherds.

They bring riches for the poor in spirit and intercede for sinners.

They comfort the afflicted and guard all who travel on land or sea.

Let us cry out to them, for they are quick to hear our desperate

entreaties: //

“O Holy Teachers, save us from an evil generation and from eternal

death.”

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

Let us sound the trumpet of joy.

The Queen of heaven inclines her ear to us.

She crowns with blessings those who honor her.

Let us praise the Virgin Mother who gave birth to the King.

He appeared on earth to burst the bonds of those condemned

to death.

You pastors and teachers glorify the Mother of the Good Shepherd:

She is the golden lampstand and the cloud of light.

Her womb is more spacious that the heavens.

She is the living temple and the cherubic throne of the Master,

the jar of manna and the sealed portal of the Word,

the divine palace and the refuge of all Christians.

Let us bless her with inspired song and beseech her:

“Make us profitless men worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven, //

for through your intercessions all things are possible for us.”

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 1:

Let us who love their words come together with hymns

and honor the three great torch-bearers of the triune Godhead:

Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom.

These men have enlightened the world with the rays of their divine

doctrines.

They are flowing rivers of wisdom,

and have filled all creation with springs of heavenly knowledge.

They ceaselessly intercede for us //

before the holy Trinity!

In the 4th Tone: Glory…:

Since you have the same place as the Apostles,

and teachers of the universe,

entreat the Master of all,

to grant peace to the world, //

and great mercy to our souls.

Now and ever…:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessèd are You among women,

and blessèd is the fruit of your womb; //

for you have born the Savior of our souls.

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 Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.