Reader’s Vespers on Tuesday August 18th, 2020

Great Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6th/19th)

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.

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.

Before your crucifixion, O Lord,

the mountain became as heaven

and like a tabernacle the cloud spread itself out

when you were transfigured and the Father bore witness to you.

Peter was present with James and John,

since they were to be with you at the time of your betrayal,

that having seen your wondrous works,

they might not be afraid of your sufferings. //

Grant us to venerate your sufferings in peace, through your mercy!

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

Before your crucifixion, O Lord,

you took your disciples to a high mountain

and were transfigured before them,

illumining them with bright rays of your power.

From love of man and in your sov’reign might,

it was your desire to show them the splendor of your Resurrection.

In peace count us also worthy of this splendor, O God, //

in your mercy and your love for man!

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

When you were transfigured upon a high mountain, O Savior,

having with you the chief disciples,

you shone forth in glorious majesty,

proving that those who excel in the height of their virtues

shall be made worthy of divine glory.

Moses and Elijah, talking with Christ,

showed that he is Lord of both the living and the dead,

the God who spoke of old through the Law and the Prophets.

The voice of the Father testified to him from the cloud of light, saying:

“Listen to him, who through the Cross has despoiled hell //

and has given the dead eternal life!”

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

The mountain that once was veiled in gloom and smoke,

is now holy and revered,

since your feet, O Lord, had stood upon it.

For by your dread Transfiguration,

the mystery hidden before the ages

has been made manifest in the last times to Peter, James, and John.

Unable to endure the shining of your face and the brilliance of your

garments,

they fell to the ground upon their faces.

Seized with wonder and amazement, they saw Moses and Elijah

talking with you about the things that would befall you;

and a voice came in testimony from the Father saying:

“This is my belovèd Son in whom I am well pleased; listen to him! //

It is he who grants the world great mercy!”

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Prefiguring your Resurrection, O Christ our God,

you took with you in your ascent of Mount Tabor

your three disciples, Peter, James and John.

When you were transfigured, O Savior,

Mount Tabor was covered with light.

Your disciples, O Word, threw themselves down upon the ground,

unable to gaze upon the form that none may see.

The angels ministered in fear and trembling;

the heavens shook and the earth quaked, //

as they beheld on earth the Lord of Glory.

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 1st Tone:

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life!

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me/ all the days of my life!

A READING FROM EXODUS

The Lord said to Moses: "Come up to Me into the mountain, and be there; and I will give thee the tablets of stone, the law and the commandments, which I have written to give them laws." And Moses rose up, and Joshua his attendant, and they went up into the mount of God. And to the elders they said: "Rest there until we return unto you; and behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man have a cause to be tried, let him go unto them." And Moses and Joshua went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. And the glory of God came down upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and the Lord called Moses on the seventh day out of the midst of the cloud. And the appearance of the glory of the Lord was as burning fire on the top of the mountain, before the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and went up to the mountain, and was there in the mountain forty days and forty nights.

A READING FROM EXODUS

In those days, the Lord spake to Moses face to face, as one would speak to his friend; and he retired into the camp: but his servant, Joshua son of Nun, a young man, departed not forth from the tabernacle. And Moses said to the Lord: "Lo! Thou sayest to me: Lead on this people; but Thou hast not shown me whom Thou wilt send with me, but hast said to me: I know thee above all, and thou hast favor with Me. If then I have found favor in Thy sight, reveal Thyself to me, that I may see Thee; that I may find favor in Thy sight, and that I may know that this great nation is Thy people." And the Lord said to him: "I Myself will go before thee, and give thee rest." And Moses said to Him: "If Thou go not up with us Thyself, bring me not up hence. And how shall it be surely known, that both I and this people have found favor with Thee, except only if Thou go with us. So both I and Thy people shall be glorified beyond all the nations, as many as are upon the earth." And the Lord said to Moses: "I will also do for thee this thing, which thou hast spoken; for thou hast found grace before Me, and I know thee above all." And Moses said: "Manifest Thyself unto me!" But the Lord said: "I will pass by before thee with My glory, and I will call by My name, the Lord, before thee; and I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and will have pity on whom I will have pity." And He said: "Thou shalt not be able to see My face; for no man shall see My face, and live." And the Lord said: "Behold, there is a place by Me: thou shalt stand upon the rock; and when My glory shall pass by, then I will put thee into a hole in the rock; and I will cover thee over with My hand, until I shall have passed by. And I will remove My hand, and then shalt thou see My backparts; but My face shall not appear to thee." And having risen early, Moses went up to Mount Sinai, as the Lord told him. And the Lord descended in a cloud, and stood near him there, and called by the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before his face, and proclaimed: the Lord God, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering, greatly merciful and true. And Moses hastened, and bowed down to the earth, and worshipped the Lord.

A READING FROM THE THIRD BOOK OF KINGS

In those days, Elijah came to Beersheba, to the land of Judah, and left his servant there. And he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree; and he asked concerning his life, that he might die, and said: "Let it be enough, now, O Lord. Take, I pray Thee, my life from me; for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down, and slept there under the tree. And behold, someone touched him, and said to him: "Arise, and eat!" And Elijah looked, and, behold, at his head there was a cake of meal and a cruse of water; and he arose, and ate and drank, and returned and lay down. And the angel of the Lord returned again, and said to him: "Arise, and eat, for the journey is far from thee." And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. And he entered there into a cave, and rested there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and said: "Thou shalt go forth, and shalt stand before the Lord in the mountain. Behold, the Lord will pass by. And, behold, there was a great and strong wind rending the mountains, and crushing rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire, the voice of a gentle breeze and the Lord was there. And it came to pass that when Elijah heard, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went forth and stood in the cave. And the Lord said unto him: "Go, and return, and thou shalt come into the way of the wilderness of Damascus: and thou shalt go and anoint Elisha, the son of Shaphat, to be prophet in thy place."

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 Litiya, in the 2nd Tone:

In your goodness you have sanctified the whole world with your

Light:

You were transfigured on a high mountain,

showing your power to your disciples;

for you redeem the world from transgression. //

Therefore we cry out to you:

“O Lord of compassion, save our souls!”

In the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of our God,

and behold the glory of his Transfiguration,

the glory of the Only-begotten Son of the Father!

Let us receive light from his light!

Let us be uplifted in spirit, //

and forever sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity!

At the Aposticha: In the 1st Tone:

He, who of old, spoke through symbols to Moses on Mount Sinai

saying: “I am He who is,”

was transfigured today upon Mount Tabor before the disciples.

In his own person he showed them the nature of man

arrayed in the original beauty of the Image.

Calling Moses and Elijah to be witnesses of this surpassing grace,

he made them partakers of the gladness, //

foretelling his death on the Cross and his saving Resurrection.

Verse:The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them!

David, the ancestor of God,

foresaw in the Spirit the sojourn with mankind of the only-begotten Son

in the flesh,

and from afar, called the creation together to rejoice with him,

prophetically lifting up his voice to cry:

“Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in your name!”

For you went up to this mountain with your disciples and were

transfigured, O Christ,

making the image that had grown dark in Adam to shine once again

like lightning,

and transforming it into the glory and splendor of your own Divinity.

Therefore we cry aloud to you: //

“O Lord and Creator of all things, glory to you!”

## Verse: ***Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in your name!***

When the chosen Apostles beheld upon the mountain of the

Transfiguration

the overwhelming flood of your light, O unoriginate Christ,

and your unapproachable Divinity,

they were caught up in a divine trance.

The cloud of light shone around them on ev’ry side.

They heard the voice of the Father

confirming the mystery of your incarnation,

that even after taking flesh, you remain the Only-begotten Son //

and the Savior of the world!

In the 6th 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:

Today on Mount Tabor, O Lord,

you have shown the glory of your divine form

to your chosen disciples, Peter, James and John.

For they looked upon your garments that gleamed like the light

and at your face that shone more than the sun.

Unable to endure the vision of your brightness that none can bear,

they fell to the earth, powerless to gaze at the sight,

for they heard a voice that bore witness from above:

“This is my belovèd Son //

who has come into the world to save man!”

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 7:

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,

revealing your glory to your Disciples as far as they could bear it.

Let your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,

through the prayers of the Theotokos! //

O Giver of Light, glory to you!

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 Holy Fathers and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.