Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday of the Samaritan Woman

May 30th, 2020

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (May 8th/21st)

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

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.

Christ met the Samaritan woman by the well.

Although he asked for water,

he thirsted for her salvation.

He knew ev’rything she had done!

She gave him a drink, and drew living water, the fullness of joy!

She proclaimed to her countrymen:

## “Behold, the Messiah foretold in the Law of old

has appeared as a man! //

He has unveiled all my hidden thoughts!”

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.

The Samaritan woman proclaimed to the town:

“Behold, the anointed Messiah has appeared on earth!

It was written in the law of old

that a great prophet would come, both God and man!

## He uncovered ev’rything hidden in the depths of my heart!

He knew all my deeds!”

The whole town ran and saw the truth of her words. //

They marveled, confirmed in faith by the sight!

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

Once at the sixth hour, O Master,

our first mother saw you walking in paradise.

Now her daughter at the same hour sees you,

the Fountain of life, sitting at the well,

asking her for water to drink.

You are the Fountain of living water;

her thirst was quenched by drinking of your life-bearing streams!

She proclaimed to those in the town: //

“Come! Drink from the River of abundance!”

In the 1st 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 beholder of ineffable revelations,

the interpreter of the mysteries of God on high;

the child of Zebedee by writing the Gospel of Christ for us, //

taught us to confess God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

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

Divinely inspired instrument for the songs of heaven,

whose secrets he wrote down for us,

singing wonderfully the song of songs!

With words from his mouth as music from a lyre, //

he prays for us to be saved.

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

With your tongue like a voice of thunder, O apostle belovèd of God

calling out the hidden Word of the Wisdom of God,

you cry always, opening your lips wisely:

“In the beginning was the Word!” //

and you enlighten every man toward the knowledge of God.

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

Let us give rightful praise to the son of thunder,

the source of divine words, the chief theologian,

the first to proclaim the truths of the teachings of the Wisdom of God:

John the belovèd and virgin.

For divinely inspired from within he said:

“In the beginning was the Word!”

Thus he taught that the Son is insep’rable from the Father;

equal to him in nature,

and showed us the right worship of the Trinity!

He also showed us the Creator,

who being with the Father and bearing life, showed us the true light.

O awesome and fearful wonder!

As he was filled with love, he was filled with divine speech,

and with the glory, belief and honor

which confirm our undivided faith, //

through which we attain the eternal good on the day of judgment!

In the 1st Tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

The Fountain of wonders came to the well at noon,

to ensnare the daughter of Eve.

Once, Eve had been driven out of Paradise by the serpent’s guile;

now a woman of Samaria comes to draw water.

The Savior saw her and said to her:

“Give me a drink of water

and I will fill you with the waters of eternal life!”

She ran to the town and proclaimed to the crowd:

“Come and see the Messiah, the Lord! //

He is the Savior 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.

The Prokeimenon in the 5th Tone:

Save me, O God, by Thy name, and judge me by Thy strength.

Verse: O God hear my prayer, give ear to the words of my mouth.

Save me, O God, by Thy name,/ and judge me by Thy strength.

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.

A reading from the First Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle John:

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

A reading from the First Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle John:

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

A reading from the First Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle John:

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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.

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 4th Tone:

You confessed the Son of the Most High:

Co-eternal and one in essence with the Father;

Light from Light, unchanging,

the express image of the Person who begot him,

shining from him timelessly and without passion,

the Creator and Lord of all ages!

You preached him to the world as Christ our God,

the one who draws light out of darkness! //

Beseech him to save and enlighten our souls.

Verse: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the

ends of the universe!

By receiving the light of the Holy Spirit,

you were enlightened to speak of things divine:

Of the Comforter, who proceeds from the Father,

and who appeared to man through the Son.

One honor, one throne, one essence,

with the Father who is without beginning, and the Word of God.

All this you proclaimed to the world, O belovèd apostle.

### Therefore we honor you in hymns as the source of the faith //

which you preserve unshaken by your intercessions before the Lord.

## Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His

handiwork!

By ascending to the height of theology,

you learned the ineffable myst’ries of God:

The unity of the essence of the Godhead;

one glory, one kingdom, one dominion,

ever divided in three Persons,

yet undivided and united in a divine Union without confusion.

### In this way you proclaimed him

glorifying the undivided Trinity. //

Pray, O theologian, that he may save and enlighten our souls!

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

O apostle of Christ,

evangelist and divine teacher,

you were an initiate of ineffable things.

You made teachings plain to the faithful,

as you thundered forth to us:

“In the beginning was the Word,”

casting aside the words of heretics who said: “He was not.”

You were openly the bosom friend and belovèd,

like the prophet Isaiah, and Moses, who saw God.

Since you may approach him boldy, //

pray unceasingly for our souls!

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

The Lord of compassion came to the well

and conversed with a woman of Samaria.

She said: “Give me your water that I may never thirst again!

I will drink from the fountain of joy and redemption! //

O Life-giving Lord, glory to you!”

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 4:

When the women disciples of the Lord

learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse

and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen, //

granting the world great mercy!”

In the 2nd Tone: Glory...now and ever….:

O belovèd apostle of Christ our God

hasten to deliver a defenseless people.

He who allowed you to recline on his breast

receives you as you bow before him.

Implore him, O John the Theologian,

to dispel the clouds darkening the nations; //

and entreat for us peace and great mercy!

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

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!