Reader’s Great Vespers on Wednesday July 8th, 2020

Appearance of the Tikhvin Mother of God Icon (June 26th/July 9th)

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.

With what pure lips \* shall we bless the Theotokos, \* who is more honorable than the cherubim, \* more holy than the seraphim, \* and more glorious than the angels and all the saints, \* the immovable throne of the King, \* the house wherein the Most High \* hath made His abode, \* the salvation of the world, \* the sanctification of God, \* who on her godly festival \* doth richly impart great mercy \* unto the faithful?

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.

What spiritual songs \* shall we now offer unto thee, O all-pure one? \* For by the most wondrous transit \* of thy most precious icon \* thou hast sanctified the world; \* by its wondrous appearance \* thou hast amazed the whole Russian land; \* and by its radiant arrival \* thou hast illumined the desolate and trackless place \* where thou dost now abide \* in thy divine icon, \* unceasingly imparting great mercy upon the world \*\* through thine omnipotent intercession.

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

What cries of compunction \* did they offer unto thee, O Theotokos, \* when the pious people beheld thy radiant icon \* miraculously suspended in the air, \* shining with beams of splendor? \* With lamentation they prayed, \* weeping and crying aloud: \* "Come thou to us, O Queen! Come down, O Lady! \* Send down the compassions of thy love for mankind! \* Visit us from on high! \* With thy radiant coming illumine those who are in darkness, \* and remain with us throughout the ages, \*\* richly imparting great mercy upon the world!"

In the 5th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Rejoice, O pure Theotokos, our hope! Rejoice, thou who received joy from the angel! Rejoice, thou who hast given birth to the Effulgence of the Father! Rejoice, O blessed, pure and most holy Virgin, who alone art all-hymned! Rejoice, speedy helper and fervent aid of Christians amid tribulations! Rejoice, exalted boast and most high glory of Orthodoxy, who hast given birth to the good Shepherd Who, having sought us who were lost, hath loosed us who were bound with the bonds of sin, and granted the world great mercy!

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

Rejoice, O most holy Virgin, mediatress of our salvation! Thou hast poured forth joy and blessing upon all, having given birth in the flesh without seed to the Wellspring of good things, Who is more comely in beauty than all the children of mankind: Jesus, the Redeemer of all the world, Whom thou didst bear upon thy most pure arm. And now gazing upon Him lovingly in the most precious image, we beseech Him and thee to radiantly come unto us and heal our bodily infirmities and save our souls.

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

Rejoice today, O Christ-loving land of Russia, for the glory of the Lord hath shone forth upon thee in the most glorious appearance of the icon of the Mother of God! For, in accordance with the providence of God, it hath come to thee wondrously and in splendor upon the air. Dance now and be glad, O Novgorod the Great, for thou hast received within the boundaries of thy dominion her who emitteth divine radiance from on high, pouring forth the grace of miracles. Adorn thyself and keep splendid festival, O most honored monastery of the Mother of God, for thy comeliness hath been most beautifully made clear; for thou hast within thyself the great treasure of the whole world, the miraculous icon of the Sovereign Lady, which having arrived most gloriously upon the air, granteth great mercy to all the faithful.

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:

Today the multitudes of the faithful rejoice; for thy divine icon hath appeared on the air, O Sovereign Lady, like a sun of surpassing radiance, shining with great light, and, emitting rays of mercy in all directions, illumining all the faithful. Joining chorus, the angels minister unto thee today, and honoring thee, they have invisibly transported thine icon from place to place, O Mother of God; and when they had borne it to the place chosen by God, they reverently set it down with due glorification. But what shall we, who are clay, offer thee? And what fitting praise can we make for thine arrival? We are at a loss and marvel, magnifying the tender compassion which thou hast shown us. But earnestly entreat thy Son and our God, O most holy one, that He grant victory over all heresies to our Orthodox bishops, peace to the world, and great mercy to 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.

A READING FROM GENESIS

Jacob went forth from the well of the oath, and departed into Haran. And he came to a certain place, and slept there, for the sun had gone down; and he took one of the stones of the place, and put it at his head, and lay down to sleep in that place, and dreamed: and behold a ladder fixed on the earth, whose top reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascended and descended on it. And the Lord stood upon it, and said: "I am the God of thy father Abraham, and the God of Isaac. Fear not; the land on which thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. And thy seed shall be like the sand of the earth; and it shall spread abroad to the sea, and the south, and the north, and the east; and in thee and in thy seed shall all tribes of the earth be blessed. And behold I am with thee to preserve thee continually in all the way wherein thou shalt go; and I will bring thee back to this land; for I will not desert thee, until I have done all that I have said to thee." And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and said: "The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." And he was afraid, and sad: "How fearful is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

A READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL

Thus saith the Lord: "It shall come to pass from the eighth day and onward, that the priests shall offer your wholeburnt-offerings on the al tar, and your peaceofferings; and I will accept you," saith the Lord. Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary that faceth eastward; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall pass through it; for the Lord God of Israel shall enter by it, and it shall be shut. For the Prince, He shall sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord; He shall go in by the way of the porch of the gate, and shall go forth by the way of the same." And He brought me in by the way of the gate that faceth northward, in front of the house: and I looked, and, behold! the house was full of the glory of the Lord.

A READING FROM PROVERBS

Wisdom hath built a house for herself and set up seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. She hath sent forth her servants, calling with a loud proclamation to the feast, saying: "Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me." And to those who want understanding, she saith: "Come, eat of my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you. Leave folly, that ye may reign forever; and seek wisdom, and improve understanding by knowledge." He that reproveth evil men shall get dishonor to himself; and he that rebuketh an ungodly man shall disgrace himself. Rebuke not evil men, lest they should hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser: instruct a just man, and he will receive more instruction. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of the law is the character of a sound mind. For in this way thou shalt live long, and years of thy life shall be added to thee.

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:

When Moses beheld the bush burning without being consumed, which prefigured thy most pure womb, wherein the divine Fire made its abode, O Virgin, he was seized with fear, marveling at the mystery; so also, O Sovereign Lady, when thy people beheld thy most pure image, which, by the good pleasure of Him Who was incarnate of thee, remained unconsumed by the material fire through the immaterial power of God, and with grace shone more brightly than the sun, illumining the hearts of the faithful, they cried out to thy Son with joy: Glory to Thy tender compassion, O Lover of mankind!

Verse: I shall commemorate thy name \* in every generation and generation.

When amid horror and trembling, stones buried the builders of thy temple, O Lady, the people were pierced with sorrow, conviced that they were dead; but, O most glorious wonder! as of old the Word of God and God of all, Whose will it was to be incarnate of thee, O most hymned one, preserved Jonah unharmed for three days in the belly of the whale, so did He work a miracle through thine intercession: for though they were buried for three days, thou didst preserve them alive and unhurt, teaching all to chant with joy: Glory to the magnitude of the love for mankind and the compassions of Him Who hath glorified thee who hast seedlessly given birth!

Verse: Hearken, O daughter, and see, \* and incline thine ear.

When, with great sorrow, the people wished to take up the remains of those builders who had been buried under the stones for a space of three days, O thou who art full of grace, then, as thy Son and God wished to glorify yet more thine intercession for the holy monastery, they discovered them to be alive and unharmed, through thy protection. Wherefore, filled with gladness, they all glorified thee, their kind Sovereign Lady, and Him Who was born of thee, crying aloud with joy: Glory to Thy compassion, O Lover of mankind!

In the 8th Tone: Glory ..., Now & ever ...:

Come, all ye faithful, and let us make haste to the church of the Mother of God; for, lo! her most precious icon shineth therein like a beacon of piety, illumining with the grace of God all the assemblies of those who love the feasts of the Church; and driving away the darkness of the gloom of sin, it worketh most wondrous miracles for those who have recourse to it, expelling evil spirits, granting strength against heresies to the Orthodox hierarchs, and having been revealed to be a rampart and bulwark for all the earth, it maketh her monastery steadfast by her mighty aid, and glorified in its most glorious victories over the enemy, it calleth all the faithful to keep festival, teaching them to cry aloud with joy unto the Mother of God: O Theotokos, thou, with God, art our might and confirmation, our hope and salvation, and we pray to thee: entreat thy Son and our God, that He deliver us from torment on the day of judgment, and deem us worthy of His heavenly kingdom.

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:

Today thy most precious icon hath shone forth upon us in the air \* like the most radiant sun O Lady, \* illumining the world with rays of mercy; \* and Russia, reverently receiving it from on high as a gift of God, \* doth glorify thee O Mother of God as the Sovereign Lady of all, \* joyously magnifying Christ our God Who was born of thee. \* Him do thou entreat, O Lady, Queen and Theotokos, \* that He preserve all cities and lands where Orthodox Christians dwell, \* unharmed by all the assaults of the enemy, \* saving those who with faith worship before the all-honored image of Him and thee, \*\* O Virgin who knewest not wedlock.

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.