Reader’s Vespers on Bright Wednesday

April 22nd, 2020

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)

Verse 1: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 2: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 3: So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 4: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

 Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

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 5th 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.

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ, \* Thou hast shamed the devil, \* and by Thy Resurrection Thou hast blunted the sting of sin, \* and saved us from the gates of death: \*\* we glorify Thee, the Only-begotten One.

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.

He who hath granted Resurrection to mankind, \* was led as a sheep to the slaughter; \* the princes of Hades trembled before Him \* and the gates of lamentations were lifted up; \* for Christ the King of glory entered therein, \* saying to those in bondage: 'Come forth!' \*\* and to those in darkness: 'Reveal yourselves!'

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

O great wonder! \* Having suffered in the flesh through his love for mankind, \* the Creator of all things visible and invisible, \* hath arisen as immortal. \* Come O ye descendents of the nations, \* let us worship Him; \* for delivered from deception by his compassion, \*\* we have learned to hymn one God in three Hypostases.

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

We offer unto Thee our evening worship, \* O never-setting Light, \* who in the flesh at the end of the ages, \* as in a mirror, shone through upon the world, \* and descended even into Hades, \* dispersing the darkness therein \* and showing unto the nations the light of the Resurrection. \*\* O Lord, Giver of light, glory be to Thee!

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

Let us glorify Christ the author of our salvation; \* for by his arising from the dead, \* the world hath been saved from error; \* the choir of Angels rejoiceth, \* the deception of demons fleeth, \* fallen Adam hath arisen, \*\* and the devil hath been overthrown.

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

The watchmen were instructed by the lawless Ones \* to conceal Christ's Resurrection \* and taking money to say that 'while we slept \* the corpse was stolen from the grave.' \* Who ever saw, or who ever heard of a corpse being stolen? \* Especially one anointed yet naked, \* and with its grave-clothes left in the tomb? \* Be not deceived, O ye Jews, \* learn from the sayings of the Prophets, \* and know that He is truly the Redeemer of the world \*\* and Allpowerful.

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

O Lord, our Savior, \* Thou hast despoiled Hades and trampled upon death; \* enlightening the world by the precious Cross, \*\* have mercy upon us.

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

In the Red Sea of old an image of the Bride who knew not wedlock was depicted. \* There Moses was the one who parted the sea, \* here Gabriel is the minister of the miracle. \* At that time Israel marched dry shod through the deep, \* now the Virgin doth seedlessly give birth to Christ. \* The sea after Israel's passage remained impassable; \* the Immaculate one after bearing Emmanuel remaineth incorrupt. \* O God, who doth exist and is pre-eternal, \* and hath appeared as man, \*\* have mercy upon us.

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 Great Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

Give ear, O God, unto my prayer, and disdain not my supplication.

Verse: Attend unto me, and hear me.

Verse: Because they have turned iniquity upon me, and with wrath were they angry against me.

Verse: As for me, unto God have I cried, and the Lord hearkened unto me.

Give ear, O God, unto my prayer,// and disdain not my supplication.

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 5th Tone:

With voices of song we magnify Thee, O Christ, \* the Savior incarnate, \* yet not separated from heaven, \* for as the Lord who lovest mankind \* Thou hast suffered the cross and death for the sake of our race, \* overthrowing the gates of Hades, \* and rising on the third day, \* thus saving our souls..

In the 5th Tone:

Verse: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; \* Pascha new and holy, \* a Pascha mystical, \* a Pascha all-venerable! \* A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; \* a Pascha immaculate, \* a great Pascha; \* a Pascha of the faithful; \* a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; \*\* a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, \* and say ye unto Zion: \* Receive from us the good tidings \* of the Resurrection of Christ; \* adorn thyself, exult, \* and rejoice, O Jerusalem, \* for thou hast seen Christ the King, \*\* like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women \* in the deep dawn \* stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; \* they found an angel sitting upon the stone, \* and he, speaking to them, said thus: \* Why seek ye the Living among the dead? \*Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? \*\* Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, \* the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. \* Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. \* O Pascha! \* Ransom from sorrow, \* for from the tomb today, \* as from a bridal chamber, \* hath Christ shone forth, \* and hath filled the women with joy, saying: \*\* Proclaim unto the apostles.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant for the feast, \* and let us embrace one another. \* Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, \* let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, \* and thus let us cry out:

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

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!

May Christ, risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life, our True God, through prayers of Holy Fathers and all the saints, have mercy on us. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life (3 times)

And unto us He has given eternal life; we worship His Resurrection on the third day!