Reader’s Vespers on Friday March 5th, 2021

Soul Saturday (Saturday of Meatfare)

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 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.

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.

Taking up the shield of faith,

strengthening themselves with the sign of the Cross,

your saints, O Lord, went bravely and willingly to torture.

They cast down the craft and arrogance of the enemy.

Through their supplications, O almighty God, //

send peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

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.

O martyrs worthy of all praise,

you cared nothing for the things of this earth

but bravely stood up to torture.

You attained the blessèd life for which you hoped.

You were made heirs of the heavenly kingdom.

Since you have boldness before God who loves mankind,

beseech him to grant peace to the world //

and to our souls great mercy!

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

Let us praise with one accord the apostles of the Lord;

For, arrayed in the armor of the Cross,

they brought to naught the error of idolatry,

and were crowned with victory. //

By their prayers, O God, have mercy on us.

In the 8th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Calling to remembrance by name today \* all the dead from all the ages \* who with faith have lived piously. \* O ye faithful, let us sing praises to the Savior and Lord, \* asking Him fervently to grant them a good defense \* in the hour of judgment before our God, \* who will judge all the earth. \* May they receive a place at His right hand in joy; \* may they dwell in glory with the righteous and the saints, \*\* and be deemed worthy of His heavenly Kingdom.

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

By Thine own Blood, O Savior, \* Thou hast ransomed mankind, \* and by Thy death Thou hast delivered us from bitter death, \* granting us life eternal by Thy Resurrection. \* Grant rest then, O Lord, to all those who have fallen asleep in godliness, \* whether in the wilderness or in the city, \* on the sea or on land, \* in every place, sovereigns, rulers and hierarchs, \* priests, monastics and those married, of every age and every race, \*\* and deem them worthy of Thy heavenly Kingdom.

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

By Thine arising from the dead, O Christ, \* no longer doth death rule over those that have died in piety. \* Wherefore we pray fervently: \* Grant rest in Thy courts and in the bosom of Abraham \* to Thy servants from Adam to this present day \* who have worshiped Thee in purity, \* our fathers and brethren, friends and kin, \* all who in this life have offered faithful service to Thee, \* and who have now departed to be with Thee, \*\* O God, and deem them worthy of Thy heavenly Kingdom.

Glory…:

I lament, and weep when I see death \* and look upon our beauty, formed according to God’s image, \* lying in the grave disfigured, inglorious, and bereft of animate form. \* O strange wonder! What mystery is this concerning us? \* How have we been delivered unto corruption? \* How have we been yoked to death? \* All this, as is written, is by the command of God, \*\* who granteth rest unto the departed.

In the 5th Tone: Now and ever... :

In the Red Sea of old

a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.

There Moses divided the waters;

Here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.

There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet;

Here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel’s passage, the sea remained impassable;

After Emmanuel’s birth, the Virgin remained a virgin.

O Ever-existing God who appeared as man, //

O Lord, have mercy on 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.

In the 8th Tone: Alleluia! Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord.

Verse: Their memory is from generation to generation.

Verse: Their souls shall dwell with the blessed.

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:

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs,

so that we may be delivered from our sins, //

for to you is given grace to pray of us.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord.

With souls filled with boundless love, O holy martyrs,

you endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,

laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.

By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,

you have been lifted up to heaven,

and now you have boldness before him.

Entreat him to grant peace to the world //

and to our souls great mercy!

Verse: Their souls shall dwell with the blessed.

Let us remember the cry of the Prophet:

“I am ashes and dust.

I looked into the graves and saw the bones laid bare.”

Who is the King or the soldier,

rich or poor, righteous or sinner? //

Give rest, O Lord, to your departed servants with the just.

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

My beginning and foundation \* was accomplished by Thy creative will, \* for Thou didst will to fashion me \* as a living creature from visible and invisible natures; \* having brought forth my body from the earth, \* and given me a soul by Thy divine and quickening breath. \* Wherefore, O Savior, \* grant rest unto Thy servants in the land of the living, \*\* in the tabernacles of the righteous.

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

By the prayers of her that gaveth birth to Thee O Christ, \* and of Thy martyrs and apostles, \* the prophets and holy hierarchs, \* the venerable, the righteous and of all the saints, \*\* grant rest to Thy departed servants.

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.

In the 8th Tone:

O Thou Who by the depth of Thy wisdom \* dost provide all things out of love for man, \* and grantest unto all that which is profitable, O only Creator: \* Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants; \*\* for in Thee have they placed their hope, O our Creator and Fashioner and God.

Glory… now and ever… :

In thee do we have a rampart and calm haven \* and an intercessor acceptable to God, \*\* Whom thou didst bear, O Theotokos unwedded, thou salvation of the faithful.

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.

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