Reader’s Vespers on Friday March 12th, 2021

Commemoration of All Who Shone Forth in the Ascetic Life (Saturday of Cheesefare)

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 6th 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.

Your martyrs, O Lord,

did not deny you.

They did not forsake your commandments. //

Through their intercessions have mercy on us!

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.

Your victorious martyrs, O Lord,

endured great torments when they struggled on earth.

Now they dwell in heaven. //

Through their prayers and intercessions preserve us all!

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

Your Cross, O Lord,

was an invincible weapon for the martyrs

They saw death before them;

but, looking to the life to come,

they were strengthened by their hope in you. //

Through their intercessions 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.

Come, all you faithful!

Let us praise the assemblies of holy fathers:

Anthony the great, Euthymius the great, and all of their company.

They passed through life as through a paradise of sweetness!

Therefore let us cry out with joy:

“These are truly the trees which our God has planted!

These are the ripened fruits of eternal life offered to Christ,

which nourish our souls. //

O blessèd God-bearing fathers, pray that we may be saved!

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

Rejoice, O Egypt, land of faith!

Rejoice, holy Libya, and the Thebaid chosen by God!

Rejoice, every place and country

which has brought forth citizens of the kingdom of heaven,

raising them in abstinence and labor,

and offering them to God as men perfect in love.

They are stars guiding our souls,

and by the brightness of their wonders and the miracles they wrought,

they have shed their spiritual light over all the earth. //

O all-blessèd fathers, pray for our souls!

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

Who among men can speak of the perfection of your lives, O holy

fathers?

What tongue can utter the sanctity of your efforts?

The sufferings in virtue and control of the flesh?

The struggles with passions, in vigils, in prayers and in tears!

Truly you were angels in the world.

You laid low the highest powers of evil.

You performed miraculous and wonderful signs.

##### Therefore pray with us, O most-blessèd fathers, //

to gain for our souls eternal joy!

In the 6th Tone: Glory…:

You preserved undefiled the image of God.

By fasting, your minds ruled the passions.

You attained to the greatest possible likeness of God,

##### You submitted the lower to the higher and made the flesh serve the

Spirit!

Therefore you were shown forth as leaders of monastics,

dwellers of the desert, the refuge of those who sought God,

renowned keepers of the precepts of Christ!

Now being free of the veil,

in heaven you freely behold the Holy Trinity, //

and earnestly intercede for those who honor you with faith and love!

Now and ever... :

Who will not bless you, O most Holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?

The Only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from you he was ineffably incarnate:

God by nature, yet man for our sake,

not two persons, but one, known in two natures!

Entreat him, O pure and all-blessèd Lady, //

to have mercy on 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 7th Tone: You, O God, are my helper, and Your mercy shall go before me!

Verse: Deliver me from my enemies, O God! Save me from

those that rise up against me!

You, O God, are my helper, // and Your mercy shall go before me!

A Reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah (8:19-23)

**19** Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love truth and peace. **20** Thus says the Lord of Hosts: ‘Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; **21** The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, “Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, and seek the Lord of hosts. I myself will go also.” **22** Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.’ **23** Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you. ‘

The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone: Let Israel hope in the Lord henceforth and forevermore!

Verse: O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not

raised too high!

Let Israel hope in the Lord // henceforth and forevermore!

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:

Let us purify ourselves, O brothers,

from all stain of flesh and spirit.

Let us illumine the lights of our souls through love of poverty!

Let us not slander one another with curses!

##### For the time has come when the Bridegroom renders to each according

to his works.

Let us greet Christ with the wise virgins,

and cry to Him with the voice of the thief: //

“Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom!”

Verse: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.

Let us purify ourselves, O brothers,

from all stain of flesh and spirit.

Let us illumine the lights of our souls through love of poverty!

Let us not slander one another with curses!

##### For the time has come when the Bridegroom renders to each according

to his works.

Let us greet Christ with the wise virgins,

and cry to Him with the voice of the thief: //

“Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom!”

Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.

Because the holy martyrs intercede for us

and sing the praises of Christ,

all error has come to an end //

and mankind is saved by faith.

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

We honor you, O our fathers,

instructors of a multitude of monks!

For through you we have learned to walk truly in the narrow path!

Blessèd are you who served Christ,

and triumphed over the power of the enemy,

O companions with the angels

and sharers with the ven’rable and righteous! //

With them, pray to the Lord that mercy may be granted to our souls.

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

Rejoice, O treasure of purity!

Rejoice, O pure abode of the immaterial Light!

Rejoice, O praise of the martyrs!

Rejoice, O preview of our salvation!

Rejoice, O preaching of the apostles!

Rejoice, O fulfillment of the prophets!

Rejoice, O beauty of monks and ascetics: //

O blameless Virgin, the salvation of the faithful!

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 4th Tone:

O God of our fathers,

do not take away Your mercy from us,

but ever act toward us according to Your kindness,

and by the prayers of Your saints, //

guide our lives in peace!

Glory… now and ever… :

#### The mystery from all eternity

unknown even by angels

is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us

by which He resurrected the first-created man, //

saving our souls from death.

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