Reader’s Vespers on Friday of the Holy Fathers -- Soul Saturday

June 5th, 2020

Righteous Father Symeon of the Wondrous Mountain (May 24th/June 6th)

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

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 8th 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.

O faithful, let us keep the memory of all those fallen asleep,

who lived in righteousness in ev’ry age, each one by name.

Let us fervently pray to the Lord our Savior:

On the day of judgment may they answer well for themselves!

When they stand before our God who comes to judge the earth,

may they take their place with joy at his right hand!

May the shining inheritance of the saints be theirs!

## May they join the company of the righteous //

and be found worthy of the heavenly Kingdom!

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 Savior, you ransomed us with your own blood;

You delivered us from death by your own bitter death.

By your Resurrection we are granted eternal life!

Grant eternal rest to all the righteous departed, O Lord,

who sleep in the wilderness or in the cities,

on land or in the sea,

to kings, bishops, priests and monastics,

to lay people of ev’ry race and station in life: //

Make them all worthy of your heavenly Kingdom!

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

O Christ, by your Resurrection from the dead,

death has no more power over those who sleep in faith.

May we rest in the heavenly mansions, in the bosom of Abraham,

together with all your faithful servants:

All who have worshipped you in purity of heart

from the days of Adam to this present time,

our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters,

all our relatives and our friends,

ev’ry one who has passed through this life in faith. //

Make us all worthy of your heavenly Kingdom!

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

By contemplation and actions, O all-blessèd Symeon,

you made your soul into a pillar

inscribed with the universal virtues.

You overcame the uprisings of the flesh,

clothing yourself in life-bearing mortification, O ven’rable father.

You became a lamp that ever shone with light, //

and enlightened all the ends of the world with grace!

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

Taking wing with divine love while yet bearing the flesh

and clad in the dust of the earth,

you openly became a dweller with the angels.

Forsaking earthly things, you ascended to the heavenly,

ever mounting to God on your lofty pillar, O father, //

and radiant in your ascent!

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

You broke open your flesh by abstinence, O Symeon,

thus revealing your soul to be a vessel of the Spirit.

You ascended on high and drew near to God.

## By his power you were made worthy

to work miracles beyond nature! //

Therefore your divine activities surpass all thought and understanding!

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

In tears and sorrow I contemplate death;

I see our beauty created in God’s image,

laid in the grave without form or honor or comeliness.

What great mystery!

What fearful end awaiting us!

How have we been handed over to corruption?

## How has death been wedded to us?

Truly, as it is written, it is by the commandment of God, //

who grants rest to the departed!

In the 6th Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

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.

In the 8th Tone: Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia!

**Verse**: Blessèd are those whom you have chosen and taken,

Lord!

**Verse**: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

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 6th Tone:

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!

Verse: Blessed are those whom you have chosen and taken, Lord!

You have honored your handiwork with your own image, O Word;

You fashioned the likeness of your transcendent Essence in matter!

You have made me partake of all these blessings,

placing me on earth to rule as king of all created things.

## O Savior, grant rest to your departed servants //

in the land of the living and mansions of the righteous!

Verse: Their souls shall abide with the blessèd!

Wishing to show me the dignity of immortal life,

you planted a garden in Eden,

adorning it with manifold beauty.

You allowed me to partake of your own life;

I had no cares or sorrows;

though living on earth, I conversed with the angels.

## O Savior, grant rest to your departed servants //

in the land of the living and mansions of the righteous!

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

Your creating command was my origin and foundation,

for you willed to fashion me as a living creature

from natures visible and invisible.

You made my body from the earth

and gave me a soul

by your divine and life-creating breath.

## O Savior, grant rest to your departed servants //

in the land of the living and mansions of the righteous!

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

By the prayers of your Mother, O Christ,

and of your martyrs, apostles, and prophets,

holy bishops, monks, laymen, and of all your saints, //

give rest to your servants who have fallen asleep.

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.

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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 only Creator, who, with wisdom profound, mercifully orders all

things,

and give that which is useful to all men:

## Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of your servants who have fallen

asleep, //

for they have placed their trust in you, our Maker and Fashioner, and

our God.

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

With the saints give rest, O Christ,

to the souls of your servants,

where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing, //

but life everlasting.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

We have you as a wall and a haven,

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, whom you have borne, //

O virgin Theotokos, the 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, of our Righteous Father Symeon, of our Holy Fathers and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.