Reader’s Vespers on Friday June 26th, 2020

Holy Prophet Elisha (June 14th/27th)

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 1st 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.

The glorious company of the martyrs

overcame the multitude of beasts with the streams of their blood.

By valiant suffering they triumphed over the sacrifices to Satan,

and they destroyed the deceit of idols. //

Now they pray to Christ to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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.

By divine words and godly wisdom,

the consecrated Fathers taught all men to glorify the Triune Godhead,

fleeing from the mingling and confusion of persons. //

Now they pray to Christ to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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

The gathering of monks put the raging of the flesh to sleep;

By taming evil desires, they revealed an angelic life on earth.

Therefore, they joyfully dance in the heavenly mansions, //

where they pray to Christ to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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.

Rejoice, all-wise Elisha!

when you had cleansed your mind of bodily pleasures, glorious one,

you received the radiance of the Spirit.

Your wholly radiant form passed this brilliance on to all.

Now you make your dwelling with the never-setting Light,//

ever interceding on behalf of us who praise you!

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

Blessed Elisha,

when Elijah was indeed revealed to you riding upon the heavenly chariot,

he left you behind as his zealous disciple,

glorified by a double portion of spiritual gifts!

In imitation of him you made the river's waters stand still by grace,

passing over them, glorious one!//

You were made radiant with joy as you magnified Christ!

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

Showing kindness to the believing Shunamite woman of old,

in holiness you raised up the dead child by a prayer,

for you were a God-inspired, venerated prophet!

Again, with salt you brought the barren waters openly to fruitfulness;

you performed countless miracles by the grace of the all-powerful Spirit!//

Therefore, blessed one, we praise you with hymns!

In the 2nd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Today the divine coming of the prophets shines forth!

It calls mystically to the souls of those who love the feasts of the Church!

The one who mounted the chariot which crosses the heavens,

the star of the unfading east,

together with Elisha, the wondrous man,

broadens the streams of the new Jordan,

proclaiming the faith with purity!

They openly portray by a double image

the twofold blessing of the harmony and glory of the covenants, both old and new//

for those who celebrate the feast of their memory with faith!

In the 1st Tone: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Let us praise the Virgin Mary,

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world,

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace, she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord whom she bore!

Courage, courage, O people of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies //

since he is all-powerful.

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:

Thou, O God, art my Helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from my enemies, O God, and redeem me from them that rise up against me.

Thou, O God, art my Helper,/ and Thy mercy shall go before me.

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 1st Tone:

O martyrs, truly worthy of praise,

although you were dishonored on earth,

the heavens received you.

The gates of paradise opened to you,

and now you enjoy the tree of life. //

Entreat Christ to grant us peace and his great mercy!

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

What earthly pleasure remains unmixed with grief?

What earthly glory remains unchanged?

All things are feeble shadows and deceitful dreams;

Death shall come in a moment and wipe them all away.

But you, O Christ, in the light of your countenance,

in the sweet beauty of your holiness,

give rest to those whom you have chosen, //

for you are the merciful Lover of man.

## Verse: Their souls shall dwell with the blessed.

No man is without sin except you, O immortal King.

Therefore, in your divine compassion,

number your servants in light with the choirs of angels, //

passing over their sins in your loving-kindness.

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

Prophet and herald of Christ,

never departing from Christ's throne of majesty,

you ever support us in our weakness.

You minister in the heights, blessing the universe

and you are ever glorified!//

Pray for forgiveness for our souls.

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

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Redeemer, \* Who came forth from thy womb, O most pure one, \* and clothed Himself in my nature, \* hath freed Adam from the primal curse. \* Wherefore, like the angel we unceasingly cry out to thee, O all-pure one, \* who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: \* Rejoice!, O Sovereign Lady, \*\* the intercession, protection and salvation for our souls

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

Tone 4:

The glorious Elijah, an angel in the flesh,  
The greatest of prophets and second forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
By sending a blessing from Heaven upon Elisha,  
Dispels sickness, cleanses lepers, and brings healing //  
To all those who honor him.

Glory...now and ever…:

The mystery hidden from all ages \* and unknown to the ranks of Angels, \* hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: \* God incarnate in an unconfused union, \* Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, \* and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, \*\* and thus saved 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 the Holy Prophet Elisha, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.