Reader’s Vespers on Friday September 25th, 2020

Commemoration of the Dedication of the Anastasis (Church of the Holy Sepulchre); Prefeast of the Elevation of the Cross; The Holy Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (September 13th/26th)

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.

The Old Law decreed that dedications be honored in splendor;

even more should we honor the New!

For as Isaiah proclaims: The coastlands are made new for God!

By this we understand the Churches now built by the Gentiles

which receive a firm foundation from God! //

Therefore let us spiritually celebrate this present feast!

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.

Be renewed, O brethren!

Having put away the old man, live in newness of life,

bridling everything from which death may come.

Let us chasten all our members, hating every evil fruit of the tree.

Mindful of this, let us avoid our ancient errors,

that mankind may be restored. //

Thus the day of dedication is honored!

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

You set up Your Church as a tower of strength,

O Christ, the pre-eternal Word,

founding it upon the rock of the faith!

Therefore it abides unshaken forever in You

for You became unchangeably man in these latter times for its sake!

Therefore we give thanks and hymn You, saying:

“You are our King since before time began, //

now and forever: Glory to You!”

In the 4th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Beholding your good works and divine supplications,

Christ sent a holy angel to you, O Cornelius,

to wholly enlighten you and the leader of the sacred apostles

who renewed you with water and the Spirit

together with all your household, O rightly glorious one, //

teaching you sublime things through the grace of the Spirit!

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

You were anointed with the oil of the priesthood.

You hastened to announce the preaching of salvation to all lands,

uprooting the thorns of falsehood, O divinely-wise one,

planting the true faith in men's souls through the Spirit!

Therefore we bless you in gladness, O Cornelius, //

as a God-pleasing hierarch and invincible martyr!

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

The foolish were shown to be wise!

Since you, O wise Cornelius, died and took up your abode in grace according to the laws of nature,

you have brought forth a well-spring of many wonders,

healing the sick, O divinely-inspired one, //

dispelling evil spirits through the Holy Spirit!

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

Celebrating the memory of the dedication, O Lord,

and glorifying You, the Giver of holiness, we pray:

“Let the senses of our souls be hallowed

through the supplications of the glorious passion-bearers, //

O good and almighty One!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? \* Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? \* For the only-begotten Son Who hath shone forth timelessly from the Father, \* came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, O pure one; \* By nature he is God, by nature for our sakes, he hath become a man \* not divided into two Hypostases, \* but known in two natures without comingling. \* Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one, \*\* that our souls find mercy!

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 5th Tone:

Rejoice, O Life-bearing Cross,

the invincible banner of godliness;

the gate of paradise, the protection of the faithful!

The Cross is the might of the Church.

Through it corruption is abolished.

Through it the pow’r of death is crushed

and we are raised from earth to heaven!

The invincible weapon of peace!

The Cross is the enemy of demons,

the glory of the martyrs,

the haven of salvation //

which grants the world great mercy!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord,

through you mankind has been delivered from the curse,

shattering the enemy by your exaltation!

O Cross, worthy of all honor,

you are a sign of true joy;

you are our help, you are the strength of the faithful,

you are the pow’r of righteous men,

you are the majesty of priests.

All who sign themselves with you are freed from danger.

O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended.

O weapon of peace ‘round which the angels stand in fear!

O divine glory of Christ our God, //

who grants the world great mercy!

Verse: God is our King before the ages, working salvation in the midst of the earth!

Rejoice, O guide of the blind,

physician of the sick and resurrection of the dead!

O precious Cross, you raised us up when we were fallen into mortality.

Through you corruption has been destroyed;

through you incorruption has blossomed forth.

We mortals are made divine

and the devil is completely overthrown!

Seeing you exalted today by the hands of bishops,

we exalt Him who was lifted high upon you

and we fall in worship before you, //

freely drawing from you great mercy!

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

We glorify You, O Lord,

as we celebrate the dedication of the most holy temple of Your

Resurrection!

You sanctified it and perfected it with Your all-perfect grace.

You are adorned in it by the faithful

with sacrifices that are sanctifying, mystical and holy,

receiving them bloodless and all-pure from the hands of Your servants!

To all those who rightly make offering, //

You give great mercy and cleansing from sins!

In the 2nd Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Cross of the Giver of life,

a divine treasure hidden in the ground,

was shown in the heavens to the pious emperor,

revealing a decree of victory over the enemy!

Joyfully and divinely hastening to see it on high with faith and love,

he zealously lifted it from the bosom of the earth, //

for the deliverance of the world and the salvation of 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.

Lord have mercy. ***(Thrice)***

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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.

Tone 4:

As You revealed from on high the splendor of the heavens,

so You revealed on earth the splendor of the dwelling of Your holy

glory!

Make it stand firm forever and accept there the supplications

which we offer You unceasingly through the Theotokos, //

O Life and Resurrection of all!

In the 4th Tone: Glory…

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,

you became a successor to their throne.

Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine

contemplation,

O inspired one of God;

by teaching the word of truth without error,

you defended the Faith even to the shedding of your blood. //

O Hieromartyr Cornelius, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

In the 4th Tone: Now and Ever…:

We offer in supplication

the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord

which You have granted to us who are unworthy:

Save the orthodox Christians, O only Lover of mankind, //

through the Theotokos.

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, by the Power of the Precious and Life Creating Cross, of the Holy Hieromartyr Cornelius, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.