Reader’s Vespers on Monday, September 14th, 2020

Holy Martyr Mammas (September 2nd/15th)

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.

Woe to me for provoking the wrath of my merciful God and Lord.

O Christ, how often I have promised to repent

and been found a senseless liar.

For I have soiled the garment in which I was first baptized,

and I have also disregarded the covenant I had made with you.

When clothed in the garments of mourning

I made a second profession in the presence of angels and men;

and that, also, I have set aside. //

Forgive me, lest I perish, O Savior.

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.

What answer shall you give at the Day of Judgment, O my wretchèd soul?

Who shall draw you out of the eternal fire and all the other torments?

Only yourself, by rousing the pity of the compassionate Lord,

by forsaking your lawless habits,

and living in a manner acceptable to God;

By shedding tears each day for your countless sins

committed in thought, word and deed; //

and beseeching Christ’s forgiveness of all your sins.

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

O Christ, do not let the compelling habit of sin prevail over me;

Do not let the demon that is battling with me gain possession of me,

nor bear me down under his will.

Save me from his mastery and reign in me,

making me wholly yours, O Lover of man.

Grant that I may live according to your will, O Word, //

and find repentance, salvation and mercy.

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.

First you put to flight the wild beasts of the passions, O renowned

champion;

then by divine entreaty you stopped the gaping mouths of lions

and the assaults of wild beasts in the arena!

You were unharmed by them!

You did not cower in fear before the fire nor the wrath of the judge, //

for you preferred nothing to the love of Christ!

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

In a young body, O glorious one,

you put the ancient deceiver to flight!

You received the marks of Christ in your flesh, O blessèd one!

Now you wear a victor’s crown, all-blessèd Mammas.

and are ever illumined by the splendor of the triune Sun!

You behold the highest things you desire with a most pure mind, //

as you are joined to the choir of the martyrs!

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

Following the life-bearing feet of our incarnate God, O victorious one,

who cast down the tyrant by the Passion of the Cross,

you went rejoicing to the stadium of martyrdom!

You were tortured by torments;

you cast the boastful one to earth, //

destroyed by the passion which killed your flesh, O Martyr!

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

As the son of those who traveled the way of the Lord,

you became a new shoot of the olive tree at the Lord’s table!

For the Lord blessed you through martyrdom

and you behold the good things of Zion on high!

You ever delight in divine joy with your parents, O marvelous

Mammas! //

By your prayers make us partakers of this joy with them!

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

My soul is assaulted by many sorrows and evil passions;

I flee to you, O Theotokos.

Lead me in the sea of life,

calm the impending storm,

and shelter me beneath your protecting veil; //

Guide me to the peaceful harbor of repentance.

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 4th Tone:

The Lord hears me when I call to Him

Verse: When I called the God of my righteousness heard me.

The Lord hears me/ when I call to Him

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:

O Lord, I have never stopped sinning;

I do not understand the need to love my neighbor.

Overcome my ignorance, O Gracious One. //

Have mercy on me, O Lover of man.

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.

I tremble with fear of you, O Lord,

but I do not cease to do evil.

Who does not tremble at the judge in the courtroom?

Or who, when they want to be cured, enrages the physician as I do?

O Long-suffering Lord, //

have compassion on my weakness and have mercy on me..

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.

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!

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

Come, O faithful!

Let us celebrate with harmony the memory of Mammas the martyr!

He has been revealed to us as a new Abel,

for as Abel became a shepherd of sheep,

bringing his first lamb to sacrifice and so acquiring the victor's crown,

so the honored martyr was eminent among shepherds of livestock;

through martyrdom, he offered himself to Christ as an acceptable

sacrifice!

And since he has boldness before Christ, //

he asks peace for the world and great mercy for our souls!

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

In you, O Mother of God,

have I put all my trust. //

Shelter me beneath your veil.

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.

Tone 4:

Your holy martyr Mammas, O Lord,

through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You,

our God!

For having Your strength, he laid low his enemies,

and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. //

Through his intercessions, save our souls!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen:

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 uncommingled 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, the Holy Martyr Mammas, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.