Reader’s Vespers on Monday, November 9th, 2020

Greatmartyr Paraskeva, Named ‘Friday’ (October 28th/November 10th)

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 4th 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.

Rome presenteth thee \* as a garden of sweetly aromatic flowers, \* O much suffering Parasceva, \* perfuming the thoughts of the faithful \* with the fragrance of the virtues, \* and ever dispelling the stench of the passions \* with grace, O glorious one, \* thou beauty of the martyrs, \*\* boast of virgins and abyss of miracles.

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.

Thou hast been given to all as a priceless glory \* by Christ our God, \* having suffered in Rome; \* and, abiding therein, O glorious martyr, \* thou drivest away from us the wickedness of the demons \* by thine assistance. \* Wherefore, we all bless thee \* and praise thy holy sufferings today, \*\* O much suffering Parasceva.

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

Preserved by the power of Christ, \* O most glorious Parasceva, \* thou didst ignore the pain of thy body \* and enter upon thy struggles \* with manly intent, \* paying no heed to thy feminine weakness; \* and, strengthened by hope, \* thou hast received illumination \*\* with those who came before thee.

In the 6th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Assembling, we, the faithful, praise thee with love and bless thy struggles and sufferings, O martyr Parasceva. Entreat Christ thy Bridegroom, that by thy supplications He deliver us from misfortunes and perils.

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

Desiring to follow after Christ, thy Bridegroom, O all-praised martyr Parasceva, thou didst zealously drain the true cup of thy blood, like a melodious swallow chanting a hymn to Christ God, the Creator of all, for those who celebrate thy memory.

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

Thy parents, honoring the sufferings of Christ, made thee the namesake of the day on which they are commemorated; and when thou didst reach maturity, thou didst brave sufferings, enduring wounds; and, rejoicing in prison as in a splendid bridalchamber, thou didst cry aloud: "I shall never be separated from Thee, O Lord! Send me Thine aid, and save me in Thy great mercy"

Glory …:

The Queen stood at the right hand of the Savior, as David doth sing; and thy soul, adorned as with vesture of gold, didst thou set before thy Lord as a sacrifice, and offer Him the blood of thy body like incense of sweet savor. O all-praised martyr Parasceva, pray for us to Christ God, the Master of all, that He save our souls.

Now and ever... :

О Theotokos, who at the sound of the archangel’s voice conceived in thy womb the Word, Who with the Father and the Spirit is equally beginningless, thou hast been revealed to be more exalted than the cherubim, seraphim and thrones.

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 4th Tone:

Having stained for thyself \* raiment of salvation \* using thy blood for dye, O all praised one, \* and whitened it with the Spirit, \* thou didst commend thyself to the Lord, \* the immortal King, \* Who hath preserved thee \* immaculate and incorrupt \* for ages of ages in the mansions of heaven, \*\* as an all-comely and incorrupt virgin.

Verse: In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous; \* He hath wrought all His desires in them.

Having partaken of wounds, \* been cast into the fire, \* endured the flaying of her flesh, \* and valiantly borne trampling by horses, \* Parasceva was invincible of mind \* and did not sacrifice to graven images; \* but, bowing her neck before God, \* through beheading with the sword \*\* she entered the heavens, wearing a crown.

Verse: With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive to me, \* and He hearkened unto my supplication.

Stained with the drops of thy blood, \* thou didst manifestly shine forth like the sun \* and by grace didst drive away \* the darkness of ungodliness, \* O all-praised martyr Parasceva; \* and thou hast illumined the faithful \* who honor thy valiant struggles \* and thy radiant and luminous \*\* and all-saving memory.

In the 8th Tone: Glory ...:

These things did Parasceva say to the tyrant: "O ungodly and adverse governor, wherefore dost thou rage against the Christians? I have neither deprived thee of a kingdom, nor destroyed thy city, yet thou thinkest to persuade me with foolish words. I shall pay no heed to thee or to thy mindless words; for I will not spare my flesh for my Christ, for He loveth me and shall bestow a kingdom upon me. To Him will I go to be His bride, and He will save me from the hands of mine enemies and grant me everlasting life."

Now and ever... :

#### I truly am the fruitless tree of the Lord’s parable, O blameless Lady,

#### And never bringing forth fruit of salvation,

#### I fear lest I should be cut down

#### And cast into the fire that is unquenchable.

#### Wherefore, I beseech you: Rescue me therefrom,

#### And by your mediation grant me to bear good fruit for your Son, O all-pure Maid.

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.

Tone 4:

O most wise and all-praised Parasceva, martyr of Christ, \* having received manly might and set aside thy womanly weakness, \* thou didst vanquish the devil and put the tyrant to shame, crying out and saying: \* "Come ye, cut my body asunder with your swords and burn me with fire; \* for, rejoicing, I shall go to Christ my Bridegroom!" \* By her supplications, \* O Christ God, save our souls.

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 Greatmartyr Paraskeva, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.