Reader’s Vespers on Thursday of the Paralytic

May 14th, 2020

Our Father Among the Saints, Athanasius of Alexandria (May 2nd/15th)

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

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.

Today is the radiant and beautiful day

which marks the middle of the Savior’s feast of Resurrection!

The feast which fills the world with grace has now reached high noon!

The miracle of Christ’s rising shines on us,

revealing to us the first-fruits of incorruption,

sealed by his Ascension on high,

and manifesting the gracious coming of the Spirit:

the most joyful celebration of Pentekost! //

All this grants our souls peace and great mercy!

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.

As a river of divine glory

the Lord cries to all in the midst of the feast:

“Let him who thirsts come to me and drink his fill!”

He is the fount of compassion, the well of mercy,

pouring out forgiveness on the world,

washing away transgressions and cleansing impurities!

He saves those who celebrate his Resurrection,

and covers with love those who honor his Ascension in glory; //

He grants to our souls peace and great mercy!

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

Who is this standing in the middle of the Temple?

Our Lord and God, whom the heavens cannot contain!

He is God by nature, yet for us he humbled himself

to be seen contained in mortal flesh.

The Word of life gushes forth from him to all:

“Cleanse your hearts! Quench the flames of passion!

Do not refuse the water of life, O children of men!

I offer you divine grace, the kingdom of immortality! //

Abide in me, your Creator, and be glorified!”

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.

You were given immortal life, O wise Athanasius,

when you preached the life-giver Christ,

the Son and Word, consubstantial and equally everlasting

with the unoriginate Father who begot him.

You burned the tinder of heresy with your fiery tongue!

You expelled Arius from the Church of Christ,

and with your divine preaching,

you enlightened the hearts of the faithful, //

that they might worship the Trinity in one essence.

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

You were shown to be like a river of God,

flooded with the waters of the Spirit,

overflowing with divine teachings,

setting on fire the fullness of the Church.

You overwhelmed the assembly of the heretics

with the depths of your divine words

and the abyss of your understanding.

For you, O wise and wondrous father, Athanasius,

preached Christ the Master, //

consubstantial with the Father who begot him!

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

As a reteller of the mysteries of God

and a divine bishop, O Athanasius

you patiently endured tribulations and persecutions,

attacks and lengthy exiles for the sake of the faith of Christ.

You clearly proclaimed Christ to be consubstantial,

equally everlasting, and equal in his activity

with the primal and equally unoriginate Father.

#### Therefore, he himself has adorned you with all-radiant teachings, //

showing you to the world as brilliant light!

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

Let us all sing hymns to Athanasius,

the holy bishop of Christ.

He overthrew the teaching of Arius,

declaring the Son to be one in essence with the Father.

He proclaimed the might of the Trinity to the ends of the earth: //

One God in three Persons, indivisible.

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

We have assembled, O Christ,

to praise the miracle of your mysteries:

the midfeast of your Resurrection and the coming of your Holy Spirit. //

Send down on us great 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 6th Tone:

My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Verse: I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help comes.

My help comes from the Lord,/ Who made heaven and earth.

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 ven’rable father, divinely revealed Athanasius,

you were known from your childhood as a beacon for the Church,

that shone with radiant vision, enriched by all virtues.

You burned up heresies with the spiritual fire of your preaching;

you guided all the faithful with the divine radiance of the Trinity,

understood in one Godhead, equally sharing everlasting glory.

Entreat and ever pray to him //

that unity of mind, peace and great mercy be granted to the world!

Verse: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding!

O ven’rable father, divinely-spoken Athanasius,

you were rightfully given the name of immortality,

for you walked the path which leads to it!

You were enriched openly by greatness of life;

you gained purity of mind.

You were found to be a champion of the Word,

receiving your breath through the Holy Spirit.

Illumined by him you conquered your enemies;

protected by him, you were unrelenting;

deified by him, you had union with him.

Entreat and ever pray to him //

that unity of mind, peace and great mercy be granted to the world!

Verse: The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom and his tongue speaks justice!

O ven’rable father, divine preacher Athanasius,

you endured tribulations and frequent peril;

now you have been given the food of paradise!

Now you dwell within the mansions of God.

You have drawn near the tree of incorruptible life, O victorious father

adorned with a crown of righteousness,

and with the diadem of the kingdom of the most high.

As you shine with beauty, O divinely wise Athanasius,

entreat and ever pray to Christ //

that unity of mind, peace and great mercy be granted to the world!

In the 3rd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Again Athanasius

the namesake of immortality,

the river of the Nile flowing with gold,

arrives for his annual commemoration!

He pours out golden torrents of immortality in divine floods,

producing a harvest for eternity!

He teaches all to worship the indivisible might of the Trinity,

pouring out God’s teachings with exalted and divine words.

He gives drink to the thoughts of the faithful //

and he prays without ceasing for our souls!

In the 8th Tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In the middle of the feast, O gracious Lord,

before your passion and glorious Resurrection,

you taught the unbelieving Jews in the Temple.

You cried out to the scribes and Pharisees:

“Let him who thirsts come to me and drink!

From the heart of him who believes in me,

rivers of living water -- the Spirit of God -- shall flow!”

Your wisdom and understanding are far beyond our words! //

Glory to you, our God, who perfects all things!

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 8:

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,

fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness,

as you cried to all: “If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink!” //

O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to you!

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 Father Among the Saints Athanasius of Alexandria, of our Holy Fathers and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!