Reader’s Vespers on Thursday September 24th, 2020

Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Theotokos; Hieromartyr Autonomus of Italy

(September 12th/25th)

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.

Today God who rests upon the thrones of wisdom

has made ready for himself a throne on earth.

He who by wisdom made firm the heavens,

makes a living heaven in His love for mankind.

From a barren root

He gives life to a life-bearing garden: His Mother.

O God of wonders and hope of the hopeless, //

O Lord, glory to you!

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.

Rejoice, O people!

This is the day of the Lord!

The palace of the light, the scroll of the Word of life

today comes forth from the womb!

The gate facing the east is born.

She awaits the entry of the Great High Priest!

She alone admits Christ into the universe //

for the salvation of our souls.

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

Barren women have brought forth famous offspring by the will of God.

Yet among those children

Mary shines brightest with divine glory.

Born wondrously herself of a barren mother,

she bore in the flesh the God of all,

in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed.

She is the single gateway of the only-begotten Son of God,

Who passed through this gate yet kept it sealed.

And having ordered all things in His own wisdom //

has wrought salvation for all mankind!

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

Today the barren gates are opened!

The Virgin door of God comes forth.

Today the fruit of grace begins to blossom

revealing the Mother of God to the world.

In her, the earthly will unite with the heavenly //

for the salvation of our souls.

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

Today is the proclamation of universal joy!

The barrenness of humans is pardoned,

for the barren Anna becomes mother of the Virgin Mother of the Creator!

The One Who is God by nature

has taken our human nature

and worked salvation in the flesh: //

Christ the Lover of mankind and the Redeemer of our souls.

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

Today the barren Anna gives birth to the holy handmaid of God

who was chosen from all generations

for the fulfillment of the divine plan

to become the abode of the King

the Creator of all, Christ our God.

Through her we mortals are restored //

from corruption to life eternal!

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

Today God who rests upon the thrones of wisdom

has made ready for himself a throne on earth.

He who by wisdom made firm the heavens,

makes a living heaven in His love for mankind.

From a barren root

He gives life to a life-bearing garden: His Mother.

O God of wonders and hope of the hopeless, //

O Lord, glory to you!

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 will come.

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 4th Tone:

The joy of the world has appeared:

The glorified Virgin sprung from Joachim and Anna!

She became the living temple of God because of her purity.

Only she is called the Theotokos.

Through her prayers, O Christ God, send peace to the world //

and to our souls great mercy.

Verse: Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

True to the angel’s prophecy

the immaculate fruit of Joachim and Anna appears:

The Virgin, the heaven, and the throne of God

the vessel of purity proclaiming joy to the world!

She is the protection of our life,

the annulment of the curse, the bestowal of the blessing.

In your nativity, O divinely-chosen Virgin

entreat peace for the world //

and for our souls great mercy.

Verse: Even the rich among the people shall entreat your favor.

Today let the barren and childless Anna clap her hands with splendor!

Let those on earth bear lamps and kings leap for joy;

let bishops be glad in blessing!

Let the whole world keep the feast!

For behold the Queen, the immaculate Bride of the Father,

has come from the root of Jesse.

No longer will women bear children in grief,

for joy has blossomed forth

and life lives in the world for all!

No longer will the offerings of Joachim be rejected

for the lamentation of Anna has been changed to joy!

She cries: Rejoice with me, O chosen Israel!

For behold the Lord has given me the living palace of His divine glory

for our common gladness and joy //

and for the salvation of our souls!

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Come, O faithful,

let us run to the Virgin!

The rod of Aaron springing from the shoot of Jesse,

the child of Joachim and Anna,

the forechosen Mother of our God

the treasure of virginity,

and the preaching of the prophets.

She is born and the world is renewed!

She is born and the Church is adorned by her heavenly beauty!

She is the holy temple of the Godhead

the vessel of virginity and bridal chamber of the King.

Through her the mystery of the union of Christ’s two natures has come

to pass. //

We worship Him, praising the nativity of the Virgin!

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:

The Church calls us to celebrate your memory with faith

O splendid and glorious Autonomous.

You were well-pleasing to the Holy Trinity,

now the Church rejoices and sings praises to you. //

Beseech Christ God to save our souls!

Glory….now and ever….:

Your nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,

has shone from you, O Theotokos!

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing. //

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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 Hieromartyr Autonomus, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.