Reader’s Vespers on Thursday November 5th, 2020

Icon of the Theotokos “The Joy of All Who Sorrow” (October 24th/Nov 6th)

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 2nd 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.

O good one, thou dost intercede for all who with faith bring themselves to thy mighty protection; for before God we sinners, ever weighed down by many sins, have none other deliverance in misfortune and sorrows, O Mother of God most high. Wherefore, we bow down before thee; deliver thy servants from every evil circumstance.

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 art the joy of all who sorrow, and the protector of the oppressed, feeder of the hungry, consolation of travelers, haven for the tempest-tossed, visitation of the sick, protection and aid of the infirm, staff of old age, O most pure Mother of the most high God. Hasten thou, we pray thee, to save thy servants.

Tone 4: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

Rejoice, O most pure Mother of God! Rejoice, thou hope of the faithful! Rejoice, cleansing of the world! Rejoice, thou who dost deliver thy servants from all sorrows! Rejoice, haven for the tempest-tossed! Rejoice, light of all the world! Rejoice, comforter and helper of Christians! Rejoice, refuge and salvation of all who bless thee, O Bride of God!

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

Rejoice, thou beauty of Jacob which God hath chosen and loved, portal for the saved, loosing of the curse, O all-blessed one, the womb which contained God, restoration of the fallen, more holy than the cherubim and most exalted of all creation, fiery throne of the Word, cloud from whence the Sun hath shone forth, granting great mercy to those who are in darkness.

Tone 8: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

Rejoice, thou joy of the angels! Rejoice, glory of mankind! Rejoice, hope and intercession, rampart and aid of the faithful, O most pure Sovereign Lady and Mother of God, who without knowing a man hast given birth to God, the Redeemer of the world, in the flesh. Disdain not thy servants, but by thine entreaties deliver us from the temptations, misfortunes and evil circumstances which surround us, O joy of all who sorrow, sole refuge of Christians.

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

Rejoice, O all-hymned Theotokos, thou fount gushing forth life for the faithful! Rejoice, Sovereign Lady of all creation, thou blessed one! Rejoice, bush unburnt! Rejoice, holy mount! Rejoice, life-bearing gard

In the 6th Tone: Glory… now and ever... :

Come, ye assemblies of those who love the feasts of the Church, let us bless the most holy Virgin, the divine Maiden, for she is the mediatress of joy and salvation for the world, in that she hath given birth unto Christ God. For the beginningless Father claimed for Himself this daughter, who alone was chosen from all generations; and the co-beginningless and equally everlasting Word chose her as His Mother; and the Holy Spirit in a godly manner joined her to Himself as a most pure bride. With unceasing hymns the hosts of the Most High, having Gabriel as their chief captain, magnify her as one chosen of God and blessed among women, crying: Rejoice, for the Lord is with thee! And with the prophet David, the patriarchs, prophets and all the saints crown her with joyful voices, crying aloud: The queen stood at Thy right hand, O Master, in a vesture of gold, wrought about with divine graces. And we, the unworthy, hymn her as the mighty helper of our race, saying: Rejoice, wondrous adornment of the Church and most marvelous protection of the whole world! Rejoice, ally in battle for faithful kings and might of warriors! Rejoice, protection, praise and joy of all born of earth! Rejoice, divine consolation of all who sorrow and are oppressed! Rejoice, divinely joyous one, the Lord is with thee, granting the world great mercy through thee!

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 2nd Tone:

To the Christian race hath Christ given thee as one higher than all heaven and earth, more glorious than the cherubim and more honorable than all creation, a helper and a mighty shelter to save and protect us sinful ones who have recourse unto thee. Wherefore, we hymn thee, the refuge of all, O Lady, and we radiantly celebrate thine honored and right favorable feast, O joyous joy of all, entreating Christ to grant us great mercy through thee.

Verse: Hearken, O daughter, and consider, \* and incline thine ear.

In the 5th Tone: With splendor let us chant the hymn of David to the Maiden Bride of God, the Mother of Christ, the King of all: Upon Thy right hand stood the Queen, O Master, arrayed in a vesture of gold, wrought about with divers colors; for, having made her who was chosen among women yet more beautiful than all the world, He was well pleased to be born from her, for His mercy's sake; and He hath given her who alone is blessed unto His people as a helper, to watch over and protect His servants from all misfortune.

Verse: The rich also among the people \* shall make their supplication before Thee.

In the 7th Tone: O Theotokos, thou art a mountain greater and more glorious than mount Zion; for, unable to endure the descent of the glory of God in image and shadow, it burned with fire, and lightning and thunder were manifest there; but thou, without being consumed, didst bear within thy womb the Word of God, Who is the divine fire. Wherefore, O Lady, cease thou never to visit thy servants with thy mercy, for from thy Son and God thou hast received the gift to watch over and protect thy Christian flock.

In the 4th Tone: Glory ..., Now & ever ...:

Regard thou the entreaties of thy servants, O all-immaculate one, quelling the evil onslaughts that are directed against us, and freeing us from all sorrow, for thee do we have as a steadfast and sure confirmation, and thine intercession have we acquired, that we who call upon thee be not put to shame. Hasten thou to make supplication for those who cry out to thee with faith: Rejoice, O Lady, thou help, joy and protection of all, 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)***

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:

Let us, the sinful and humbled, \* now earnestly flee to the Theotokos, \* and bow down, crying out in repentance \* from the depth of our souls: \* Help us, O Lady, who hast been merciful to us. \* Hasten thou, for we are perishing \* from a multitude of transgressions. \* Turn not thy servants away, \*\* for thee do we have as our only hope.

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