Reader’s Vespers on Thursday December 17th, 2020

Our Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabas the Sanctified (December 5th/18th)

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.

The sun was darkened in fear of you,

unable to bear the sight of the Creator suff’ring on the wood,

and shamefully treated by lawless men.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two, //

while the earth quaked and the rocks were split in their trembling.

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.

After the evil serpent had lifted you upon the wood, O Lover of man,

he was utterly cast down on the earth,

overthrown, he lay as a silent corpse.

The curse of Adam was destroyed and condemned humanity was saved.

We entreat you: save us and take pity on us. //

Make us all worthy of your kingdom.

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

When you were hung on the Cross, your side was pierced with a lance.

The sun hid its rays, not wishing to behold you, O sinless Savior,

unable to behold the shameful treatment you endured.

All creation cried: “Glory to your crucifixion, O Word, //

you have saved us all, O Lover of man.”

In the 5th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

O divinely-wise Sabas,

you stand together with the angels

and dwell with the ven’rable ones,

you converse with the prophets

and are co-heir of the Kingdom with the martyrs and apostles!

You dwell in unfading Light

and shine with His Divine light and intense desire,

standing before Him with boldness and unceasing enlightenment,

delighting in His beauties!

Entreat Christ, O ven’rable father, //

beseeching Him to grant unity to the Church, peace and great mercy!

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

O divinely-wise Sabas,

you are an unquenchable lamp of abstinence,

a radiant beacon for monastics illumined with rays of love!

You are the confirmation and strength

of those who honor you with faith,

a treasury of healings and true dweller in the desert

which you showed to be the Paradise of God bearing the divine fruit of

salvation!

Entreat Christ, O ven’rable father, //

beseeching Him to grant unity to the Church, peace and great mercy!

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

O divinely-wise Sabas,

you are a fiery pillar of the virtues,

a beacon guiding men from the sea of life to the harbor of God!

As a pure dwelling of the Holy Spirit, you disregarded spiritual

deceptions.

You are an instructor of monastics,

a sure measure of abstinence,

a radiant height of humility

and fountain pouring forth a depth of healing.

Entreat Christ, O ven’rable father, //

beseeching Him to grant unity to the Church, peace and great mercy!

In the 6th Tone: Glory… :

You set your mind as master over the disturbing passions,

keeping the image unharmed through the ascetic life.

Thus you rose into the perfect likeness,

for bravely curbing nature,

you hastened to subject what is lower to that which is above:

You made the body servant to the Spirit.

Therefore you were revealed as the chief of those living the monastic life,

a citizen of the desert, a master teaching those who hasten to you,

a perfect example of virtue.

Now the shadows have been set aside, O Sabas,

and in heaven you behold in purity the holy Trinity, //

as you pray with boldness for those who honor you with faith and love!

Now and ever... :

Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin?/ Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving?/ For the only-begotten Son Who hath shone forth timelessly from the Father,/ came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, O pure one;/ By nature he is God, by nature for our sakes, he hath become a man/ not divided into two Hypostases,/ but known in two natures without commingling./ Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one,// that our souls find 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 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.

At the Aposticha: Tone 5:

Rejoice, for you are a sweet-scented example of the struggles of fasting,

as you took your cross upon your shoulder

and offered yourself to Christ the Master.

You trampled the false understanding of the flesh, O blessèd father,

enlightening your soul with the virtues

and taking flight towards desire for God.

Now as we stand around your most holy shrine, O all-praised Sabas,

we ask that by your prayers

we may receive God’s love for mankind, //

and great mercy for the world!

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints!

O God-bearing Sabas,

in your godly wisdom, O ven’rable father,

you approached the fire of the Spirit,

revealing yourself in the world as a divinely glowing ember,

enlightening the souls of those who faithfully come to you

and leading them to the unfading light!

Moistened from on high with the grace of God,

you quench the burning fire of the desert.

## Therefore, Christ who directs God’s righteousness

has openly granted you a crown of victory, O blessèd father. //

Entreat Him to grant our souls great mercy!

Verse: Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord; who greatly delights in His

commandments!

Your life was manifested as a ladder,

O divinely-wise Sabas,

spanning the gulf between earth and the heavens.

You ascended the heights and were counted worthy to converse with

Christ the Master.

By enlightening your mind with this radiance,

you received a splendor equal to that of the angels!

Now as you stand before Him, O ven’rable father,

pray that we who celebrate your divine and most holy memory may

stand with you, //

and that He will grant the world great mercy!

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

We honor you, O Sabas, our father,

an instructor of a multitude of monks!

For through you we have learned to walk truly in the narrow path!

Blessèd are you that served Christ,

and triumphed over the power of the enemy,

O companion with the angels

and sharer with the ven’rable and righteous! //

With them, pray to the Lord that mercy may be granted to our souls.

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

O unwedded Virgin!/ thou who ineffably conceived God in the flesh,/ Mother of God Most High:/ accept the supplications of thy servants, O all-immaculate one,/ granting unto all cleansing of transgressions;/ and, accepting now our supplications,// pray thou that we all be saved.

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 8:

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,

and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.

By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe! //

O our holy father Sabas, pray to Christ our God that our souls may

be saved!

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 Venerable and God-bearing Father Sabas the Sanctified, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.