Reader’s Vespers on Tuesday of the Blind Man

May 26th, 2020

Leavetaking of Pascha

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)

Verse 1: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 2: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 3: So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 4: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

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 man blind from birth asked himself:

“Was I born blind because of the sins of my parents?

Or am I a living sign of the faithlessness of the people?

I am not content to continue asking whether it is night or day.

My feet can no longer endure tripping upon the stones!

I have seen nothing:

neither the sun shining, nor the image of my Maker.”

But I entreat you, O Christ God, //

look upon me and have mercy on me!

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.

While passing by the temple,

Jesus met a man blind from birth.

He had compassion on him and put spittle on his eyes, saying:

“Go wash in the pool of Siloam.”

He washed himself and then gave glory to God!

His neighbors asked him:

“Who opened your eyes, which no one could heal before?”

He answered: “A man called Jesus said to me:

‘Wash in Siloam!’ And now I see:

He is truly the Christ, the Messiah whom Moses foretold in the Law. //

He is the Savior of our souls!”

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

Meditating on the darkness of his life,

the blind man cried to you, O Lord:

“Open my eyes, O Son of David, our Savior, //

that with all I might sing and glorify your power!”

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.

While passing by the way, O Lord,

you met a man blind from birth.

Your disciples were puzzled and asked:

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,

that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered: “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents,

but that the works of God might be revealed in him!

I must work the works of him who sent me,

which no one else can do.”

As he said this, he spat on the ground

making clay of the spittle.

He anointed the man’s eyes with the clay and said to him:

“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”.

He went and washed, and was made whole,

and cried out: “O Lord, I believe!” //

He worshipped you, and now we cry: “Have mercy on us!”

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

O Christ God, Sun of righteousness,

by your touch you enlightened all!

Give sight now to our spiritual eyes, and show us to be sons of the day.

Great is your ineffable goodness towards us! //

O Lover of man: Glory to you!

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

In your compassion, O Christ God, you were incarnate,

and made the blind man worthy of seeing the most radiant Light.

Now, O Giver of Light, also enlighten the eyes of our souls, //

for you alone are compassionate!

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

Who can speak of your powers, O Christ,

or who can speak of your miracles?

The gracious one was seen on earth, granting gifts to men.

Not only did you open the blind man’s physical eyes,

but also the eyes of his soul.

Therefore he confessed you as truly God, //

who grants great mercy to all!

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 1st Tone:

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life!

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me/ all the days of my life!

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:

We magnify you in songs of praise,

O incarnate Christ and Savior!

By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,

as the Lord and Lover of man

you overthrew the gates of Hell, //

and arose on the third day, saving our souls!

Verse: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; \* Pascha new and holy, \* a Pascha mystical, \* a Pascha all-venerable! \* A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; \* a Pascha immaculate, \* a great Pascha; \* a Pascha of the faithful; \* a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; \*\* a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, \* and say ye unto Zion: \* Receive from us the good tidings \* of the Resurrection of Christ; \* adorn thyself, exult, \* and rejoice, O Jerusalem, \* for thou hast seen Christ the King, \*\* like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women \* in the deep dawn \* stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; \* they found an angel sitting upon the stone, \* and he, speaking to them, said thus: \* Why seek ye the Living among the dead? \*Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? \*\* Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, \* the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. \* Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. \* O Pascha! \* Ransom from sorrow, \* for from the tomb today, \* as from a bridal chamber, \* hath Christ shone forth, \* and hath filled the women with joy, saying: \*\* Proclaim unto the apostles.

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

It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant for the feast, \* and let us embrace one another. \* Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, \* let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, \* and thus let us cry out:

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

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 5:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,

co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,

born for our salvation from the Virgin;

for he willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,

to endure death

and to raise the dead //

by his glorious Resurrection!

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

Rejoice, gate of the Lord which no one can force!

Rejoice, rampart and shelter of those who come to you!

Rejoice, undisturbed haven that never knew a man!

Since you gave birth in the flesh to your Maker and God,

never cease to intercede for those //

who sing a hymn of praise to your Son and worship him!

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

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!