Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, January 2nd

30th Sunday After Pentecost –– Sunday of the Holy Ancestors –– Tone 5

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.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Arise O Lord, save me, O my God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Salvation belongs to the Lord: Thy blessing is upon Thy people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God. ***Three Times***

Lord, have mercy ***Three 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.

By thy precious Cross, O Christ,

thou hast put the Devil to shame.

By thy resurrection, thou hast blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death! //

We glorify thee, O Only-begotten One!

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.

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant resurrection to the human race!

The princes of Hell were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted!

Christ, the King of Glory, had entered,

saying to those in chains, “Go forth!” //

and to those in darkness, “Come to the Light!”

In the 6th Tone: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

The never-setting Sun presses forward to rise,

enlightening all things under heaven.

Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet him;

Let us prepare to be borne on high with him in spirit;

Let us beseech him in his compassion,

that as he comes in his good pleasure to his own strange birth,

he may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in Eden,

into Bethlehem where he comes to be born.

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

The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the cherubim,

goes to dwell in a womb without blemish.

The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;

He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Judah.

A cave becomes a palace of the King of all;

A manger takes the place of the throne of fire.

There the Virgin Mary lays him down as a babe,

for he come to restore the first-created man, //

as he is well pleased so to do.

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

The memory of the forefathers radiates to the ends of the earth;

filled with light it shines forth rays of grace.

For Christ, the Sun most-bright, shines on high, from afar;

the stars gather and shine together with him;

the God-Man’s birth is revealed to be in Bethlehem.

So let us all in faith reverently extol his birth! //

Let us dance for joy in praise.

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

Adorned with the glory of divine communion Adam exults today;

with him, Abel leaps in gladness and Enoch rejoices;

Seth dances for joy, and Noah with him.

The ven’rable Abraham sings with the Patriarchs;

from on high Melchizidek beholds a fatherless birth.

And so, as we celebrate the divine memory of the fore-fathers of

Christ, //

Let us pray that our souls may be saved.

Glory…:

Daniel, the man of desires,

when he saw you, O Lord,

in truth as a Stone cut without human hands,

foretold you, a child born without seed:

the Word incarnate of the Virgin,

the unchangeable God, //

and the Savior of our souls.

Now and ever... :

Make ready, O cave, for the Ewe Lamb comes,

bearing Christ in her womb!

Receive, O manger, him who by a word has released dwellers of earth

from lawlessness!

You shepherds abiding in the fields,

bear witness to the fearful wonder;

you Magi from Persia, offer to the King gold, myrrh, and frankincense!

For the Lord has appeared from a virgin mother,

and she, bending over him as a handmaid,

worshipped him as he lay in her arms, saying to him:

“How were you sown as a seed in me?

How have you grown within me, //

O my Deliverer and my God?”

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.

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

 The Lord is robed with strength, and has girded Himself

 For He has established the world so that it should never be moved

 Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore

 The Lord is King,/ He is robed in majesty!

**The Reading from the Book of Genesis!**

When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.

Then he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his goods, and the women and the people. After his return from the defeat of Ched-or-lao’mer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

And Mel-chiz’edek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, “Blessèd be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessèd be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.”

**The Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy!**

“’Behold, I have set the land before you; go in and take possession of the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their descendants after them.’

 At that time I said to you, ‘I am not able alone to bear you; the LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are, and bless you, as He has promised you!’

 So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes. And I charged your judges at that time, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the alien that is with him. You shall not be partial in judgment; you shall not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment is God’s; and the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.’”

**The Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy!**

 “Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; yet the LORD set His heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cleave to Him, and by His name you shall swear. He is your praise; He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrible things which your eyes have seen.”

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.

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 Apostikha: In the 5th Tone:

We magnify thee 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

thou didst overthrow the gates of Hell, //

and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls!

Verse: The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty!

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of Man,

thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.

By accepting death in the flesh, thou hast granted us immortality.

Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,

and hast resurrected us with thyself in glory, as God! //

Glory to thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

Verse: For he has established the world so that it shall never be moved!

Thy crucifixion and descent into Hell are awesome, O Lover of Man!

Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners!

Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us!

Grant us purification of sins,

who glorify thy resurrection on the third day!

Make us worthy of Paradise //

and save us, O Lover of man!

Verse: Holiness befits thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

For our sake, thou didst accept death in the flesh,

to rise form the dead on the third day!

Heal us from our earthly passions,

and restore us from our evil transgressions //

and save us, O Lover of man!

In the 2nd Tone: Glory …:

Rejoice, O honored prophets

you have fulfilled the law of the Lord!

You are revealed as unshakable pillars of faith!

You have prepared for the coming of Christ’s new testament!

Now that you have been taken to heaven,

intercede with him the grant peace to the world, //

and great mercy to our souls.

Now and ever... :

Behold, the time of our salvation is at hand:

Prepare yourself, O cavern,

for the Virgin approaches to give birth to her son.

Be glad and rejoice, O Bethlehem, land of Judah,

for from you our Lord shines forth as the dawn.

give ear, you mountains and hills and all lands round about Judea,

for Christ is coming to save man, //

whom he created and whom he loves.

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)***

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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, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

In the 5th Tone:

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!

In the 2nd Tone: Glory… now and ever...:

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three holy youths rejoiced in the flames as though at the waters of rest,

and the prophet Daniel appeared,

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. //

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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