Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, June 20th

Second Sunday After Pentecost –– All Saints of Rus/North America –– Tone 1

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

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 1st 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.

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins, //

for thou alone hast manifested the resurrection to the world!

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.

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One who rose from the dead!

For he is our God, //

who has delivered us from our transgressions!

In the 2nd Tone: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

Come, let us praise the saints of North America,

holy hierarchs, ven’rable monastics and glorious martyrs,

pious men, women and children, both known and unknown.

Through their words and deeds, in various walks of life,

by the grace of the Spirit they achieved true holiness.

Now as they stand in the presence of Christ who glorified them, //

they pray for us who celebrate their memory with love.

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

Come, let us assemble today

and glorify the luminaries of the North American lands,

the glorious martyrs and holy bishops who confirmed our faith,

the righteous dwellers in the wilderness

and guides of the spiritual life.

Let us cry out to them in joy: //

“O all saints of North America, known and unknown, pray to God for

us!”

In the 6th Tone: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

The earth rejoices and the heavens are glad,

in praising your labors and lives, O ven’rable saints of America,

your spiritual fortitude and purity of heart.

By driving away a multitude of demons

and enlightening many people with the light of the Orthodox Faith, //

you have confirmed our land.

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

Rejoice, O mountains of North America!

Leap for joy, O waters flowing in rivers and lakes!

Rise up, O fertile plains and valleys,

for the elect of Christ who dwelt in you are glorified,

men and women who left their homes for a new land.

With faith, hope and patience as their armor,

they courageously fought the good fight!

Comforted by the beauty of the Orthodox Faith,

they labored in mines and mills, they tilled the land,

they braved the challenges of the great cities,

enduring many hardships and sufferings.

Never failing to worship God in spirit and truth

and unyielding in devotion to his most pure Mother,

they erected many temples to his glory!

###### Come, O assembly of the Orthodox

and with love let us praise the holy women, men and children,

those known to us and those known only to God,

and let us cry out to them:
”Rejoice, all saints of North America //

and pray to God for us!

In the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Rejoice, O continent of North America,

illumined by the holy Gospel!

Rejoice, ev’ry province, state, city and town,

which raised up citizens of the heavenly Kingdom!

Rejoice, O our ven’rable father Herman, first saint of our land!

Rejoice, O martyrs Juvenaly and Peter,

for your blood has watered the seed of faith planted in Alaska!

Rejoice, O holy Hierarchs:

Innocent, Tikhon, Nicholas and Raphael!

Rejoice, O holy fathers Alexis, John and all righteous priests,

Rejoice, all holy men and women, saints of North America,

for your light has shone forth to the ends of the earth! //

We beseech you to pray to Christ our God that our souls may be

saved!

In the 1st Tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Let us praise the Virgin Mary,

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world,

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace, she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord whom she bore!

Courage, courage, O people of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies //

since he is all-powerful.

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 Prophecy of Isaiah!**

# Thus says the Lord: Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, It is true. “You are my witnesses,” says the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

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# I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses,” says the LORD. “I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?” Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

**The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon!**

 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in the furnace He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect, and He watches over His holy ones.

**The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon!**

The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with His right hand He will cover them, and with His arm He will shield them. The Lord will take His zeal as His whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel His enemies; He will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; He will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with Him to fight against the madmen.

Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap to the target as from a well–drawn bow of clouds, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil–doing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For you dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High, who will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

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.

In the 1st Tone:

We have been freed from sufferings

by thy suffering, O Christ.

We have been delivered from corruption by thy resurrection. //

O Lord, glory to thee!

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

Let creation rejoice!

Let the heavens be glad!

Let the nations clap their hands with gladness!

For Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the cross.

Slaying death, he has given life. //

He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of Man.

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

As King of heaven and earth,

thou wast voluntarily crucified in thy love for man.

Hell was angered when it met thee below.

Adam rose, seeing thee the Creator, under the earth.

O wonder!

How has the Life of all tasted death?

Thou didst enlighten the world, which cries: //

“O Lord who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!”

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

The myrrh-bearing women came with haste to thy tomb,

bearing myrrh and lamentations.

Not finding thy most pure body,

they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.

They told the Apostles: //

“The Lord is risen, granting to the world great mercy!”

In the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Today, as we celebrate the memory

of all the Saints of North America,

let us praise them as is fitting,

for they lived all of Christ’s beatitudes:

Deprived of material wealth, they became rich in spirit;

meek, they inherited the earth;

mourning, they were comforted;

thirsting for righteousness, they were satisfied;

merciful, they obtained mercy;

pure in heart, they beheld the image of God;

as peacemakers, they became the children of God;

persecuted and tortured for righteousness; sake,

they now rejoice in heaven,

and to the Lord they pray fervently //

that he may have mercy on our souls!

In the 5th Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let us sound the trumpet of joy

and praise with one accord the protectress of our land:

Our Queen, the Theotokos!

Rejoice, for you have crowned our land with your favor,

pouring abundant grace upon it!

Therefore, the Church in America joyously celebrates your precious

protection

and commemorates the multitude of your miracles!

Do not deprive us now of your mercies, O Lady.

Look with favor upon us in our adversities and afflictions //

and raise us up by your powerful intercession!

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

In the 1st Tone:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews

while the soldiers were guarding thy most pure body

thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven, therefore, cried to thee, O Giver of Life: //

“Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to thy Kingdom!

Glory to thy dispensation, O thou who lovest mankind.”

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

As the bountiful harvest of your sowing of salvation,

the lands of North America offer to you, O Lord, all the saints who

have shone in them.

By their prayers, keep the Church and our land in abiding peace //

through the Theotokos, O most merciful One.

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

For our sake you were born of a Virgin, O Good one.

You suffered crucifixion, and despoiled death through death

and as God you revealed the Resurrection:

Do not despise those whom you have created with your own hand!

Show forth your love for mankind, O merciful One! //

##### Accept the prayers of the Theotokos, and save your despairing people!

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