Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, July 11th

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost –– Holy Glorious and All Laudable Apostles Peter and Paul –– Tone 4

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 4th 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.

We glorify thy resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,

by always honoring thy life-creating Cross.

By it, thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man,

O almighty one!

By it, thou hast renewed our entrance to heaven, //

For thou art good and the Lover of man!

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 didst loose the tree’s verdict of disobedience, O Savior,

by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross!

By descending to hell, O almighty God,

thou didst break the bonds of death!

Therefore, we adore thy resurrection from the dead, singing in joy: //

“Glory to thee, O all-powerful Lord!”

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

Thou didst smash the gates of hell, O Lord,

and by thy death thou didst demolish the kingdom of death!

Thou didst deliver the race of men from corruption, //

granting to the world life, incorruption, and great mercy!

In the 2nd Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; \* and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

What garlands of song shall we weave for Peter and Paul?

Separated in body, they were united by the Spirit;

they rank first among preachers:

One was the leader of the apostolic army,

while the other labored more than them all!

Truly, Christ our God, who has great mercy, //

has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory!

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

How shall we worthily sing hymns to honor Peter and Paul?

Their hands were filled with grace and truth;

their feet carried them to the ends of the earth,

preaching the Gospel of peace.

Once driven by the wind of the Spirit,

they are now carried up to heaven!

Truly they are rivers of wisdom and upholders of the Cross!

## Through them Christ our God, who has great mercy, //

has cast down the arrogance of demons!

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

What spiritual songs shall we sing for Peter and Paul?

They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless.

They are awesome swords of the Spirit.

They are the adornment of Rome;

they have nourished the whole world with the Word of God.

They are the living tablets of the New Testament

written by the hand of God:

Christ, who has great and rich mercy, //

has exalted them in Zion.

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

Three times Christ asked Peter: “Do you love me?”

In this way he reversed the threefold denial

Henceforth Simon was to lead those who had witnessed God's

mysteries.

He cried out to the Lord:

“You know all things; you know that I love you!”

“Feed my sheep, tend my chosen ones,” the Savior said.

“Feed my lambs, whose salvation I bought with my own blood!” //

O blessèd apostle, pray that he may grant us great mercy!

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

The prophet David was a father of the Lord through you, O Virgin!

He foretold in songs the one who worked wonders in you:

“At thy right hand stood the queen, thy mother, the mediatrix of life,

since God was freely born of her without a father!”

He wanted to renew his fallen image, made corrupt in passion;

so he took the lost sheep upon his shoulder,

and brought it to his Father,

joining it to the heavenly powers. //

Christ, who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world, O

Theotokos

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 First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter!**

Blessèd be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith-the salvation of your souls.

**The reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter!**

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

**The reading from the First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter!**

Belovèd, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed.

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.

Litya:

In the 3rd Tone:

Citizens of heavenly Jerusalem:

Peter, the rock of faith,

and Paul the orator of Christ’s holy Church!

You were an invincible team for the Trinity.

You have caught the whole world in your net;

you have endured the contest of suffering.

Today you depart this world for the throne of God:

as you stand before him with boldness //

pray that our souls may be saved!

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

unto ages of ages. Amen.

O apostles, praised throughout the world,

the Wisdom of God, the Word of the Father,

foretold in his Gospel that you would be his true vines.

You carried in your branches the sweet-tasting fruit of life.

We faithful partake and are filled with gladness!

O Peter, the rock of faith,

and Paul, the pride of all the earth, //

strengthen the flock established by your teachings!

Aposticha:

In the 4th Tone:

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,

thou hast annulled our ancestral curse!

By descending to hell, thou hast freed the eternal prisoners,

granting incorruption to the human race! //

Therefore in songs we glorify thy life-creating and saving resurrection!

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

By hanging upon the tree, O only-powerful Lord,

thou didst shake all of creation!

By being laid in the tomb, thou hast raised those who dwelt in the tombs,

Granting life and incorruption to the human race! //

Therefore in songs we glorify thy rising on the third day!

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

The lawless people, O Christ,

handed thee over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,

thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.

But voluntarily thou didst endure burial,

rising by thine own power on third day as God, //

granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

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

With tears the women reached thy tomb, searching for thee;

but not finding thee, they wept with wailing and lamented:

“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,

How wast thou stolen?

What place can hold thy life-bearing body?”

An angel replied to them:

“Do not weep but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, //

granting us joy as the only-compassionate One!

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

A joyful feast dawns upon the earth today:

the memorial of Peter and Paul,

the wise leaders of the apostles.

Let Rome rejoice and be glad with us!

Let us keep feast, O brethren, in songs and hymns.

Rejoice, O apostle Peter, true friend of Christ our God!

## Rejoice, O belovèd Paul, herald of the faith and teacher of the universe!

You have boldness before him, O chosen pair: //

Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

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

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,

was born of you, O most pure Virgin!

By accepting my nature he freed Adam from his ancient curse!

Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!

Rejoice, O celestial joy!

Rejoice, O Lady, //

The protection, intercession and 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, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

In the 4th Tone:

When the women disciples of the Lord

learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse

and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen, //

granting the world great mercy!”

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

O first-enthroned of the apostles,

teachers of the universe:

Entreat the Master of all

to grant peace to the world, //

and great mercy to our souls!

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

##### The mystery hidden from all ages \* and unknown to the ranks of Angels, \* hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: \* God incarnate in an uncommingled union, \* Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, \* and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, \*\* and thus saved our souls from death.

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 Glorious, All-Laudable Apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.