Reader’s ‘Great’ Vespers on Saturday, November 7th

22nd Sunday After Pentecost –– Holy Greatmartyr Demetrius –– 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!”

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

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in his love for man,

and rose again immortal!

Come, O sons of nations, let us worship him!

Delivered from error by his compassion, //

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons.

In the 8th 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 most-glorious wonder!

In heaven and on earth joy has dawned bright today

at the commemoration of the martyr Dimitrios;

from the angels he is garlanded with praises,

and from humans he receives songs.

O how he struggled! How well he competed! //

Through him the cunning foe has fallen and Christ has conquered.

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

O most-glorious wonder!

By the beams of his wonders

Dimitrios shines forever through the ends of the earth more brightly

than the sun,

shining from the light that knows no evening,

and taking his pleasure in the light that never sets;

by his rays barbarian clouds have been dispelled, //

diseases chased away, and demons defeated.

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

O most-glorious wonder!

###### The thrice-blessèd Dimitrios, transfixed by a lance for the sake of

Christ,

has appeared each day like a two-edged sword against the foes,

as he cuts off the arrogance of enemies

and breaks in pieces the insolence of demons.

To him let us cry out: //

“O holy Dimitrios, protect us who ever honor your all-revered

memory.”

In the 6th Tone: Glory …:

Today the universal festival of the Champion calls us together.

Come then, O lovers of feasts,

let us radiantly celebrate his memorial, as we cry out:

“Rejoice, for you tore apart the tunic of impiety through the faith,

robing yourself in the courage of the Spirit!

Rejoice, who destroyed the purposes of the lawless with the strength

given you by God!

Rejoice, who when your limbs were pierced by the lance

depicted for us spiritually the blessèd passion of Christ!”

Implore Him, O Dimitrios, ornament of athletes,

that we may be rescued from visible and invisible foes, //

and that our souls may be saved.

In the 5th Tone: Now and ever... :

In the Red Sea of old

a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.

There Moses divided the waters;

Here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.

There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet;

Here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel’s passage, the sea remained impassable;

After Emmanuel’s birth, the Virgin remained a virgin.

O Ever-existing God who appeared as man, //

O Lord, have mercy on us!

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 is from the Prophecy of Isaiah!**

Turn, O Lord, from heaven, and look from Thy holy habitation and Thy glory. Where are Thy zeal and Thy strength? Where is the multitude of Thy mercies and Thy compassions that Thou hast endured for us? For Thou art our Father, because Abraham has not known us, nor has Israel known us. But do Thou, O Lord, our Father, deliver us; from the beginning Thy name has been on us. Why hast Thou turned us aside, O Lord, from Thy ways, and made hard our hearts that we should not fear Thee? Return for the sake of Thy servants, for the sake of the tribes of Thine inheritance, that, at least, we may inherit a small part of Thy holy mountain. Our adversaries have trodden down Thy sanctuary. We have become as at the beginning when Thou didst not rule over us, and Thy name was not called upon us. If Thou wouldst open the heaven, trembling would take hold of the mountains from Thee, and they would melt; like wax melts before the fire. And fire shall burn up the enemies, and Thy name shall be made manifest to Thine adversaries; the nations shall be troubled at Thy presence. When Thou shalt do glorious things, trembling shall take hold of the mountains from Thee. From the ages we have not heard, nor have our eyes seen a God beside Thee, or Thy works which Thou shalt perform for them that wait for mercy. For mercy joins them that work righteousness, and they shall remember Thy ways. And now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, and we are clay; Thou art our Fashioner and all of us are the work of Thy hands. Be not very angry with us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever; but now look on us, for we are all Thy people.

**The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah!**

“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the Lord, the first fruits of His harvest. All who ate of it became guilty; evil came upon them, says the Lord.” Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: “What wrong did your fathers find in Me that they went far from Me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and puts, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’ And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in you defiled My land, and made My heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ Those who handle the law did not know Me; the rulers transgressed against Me; the prophets prophesied by Ba’al, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore I still contend with you, says the Lord, and with your children’s children I will contend. For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord.”

**The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon!**

But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There was one who pleased God and was loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God’s grace and mercy are with His elect, and He watches over His holy ones.

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 4th Tone: Glory…:

Let us all honor Dimitrios,

wisest in teachings and victor among martyrs,

who by lances inherited the grace from the Savior’s side that was

pierced by the lance,

from which the Savior pours out for us streams of life and

incorruption.

Through blood he finished the course of his contest

and shone for all the inhabited world by wonders,

zealous for the Master and compassionate lover of the poor;

many times the defender of the people of Thessalonika in many dread

dangers.

As we celebrate his yearly memorial, we glorify Christ God, //

who works through him healings for all.

Now and ever... :

Deliver us from our constraints, O Mother of Christ God,

who gave birth to the Maker of all things,

that we may all cry to you: //

“Rejoice, the only defense 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 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 3rd Tone: Glory… now and ever...:

The world has seen you in afflictions, O Passion-bearer,

as a great warrior vanquishing the nations.

You subdued the foolishness of Leo,

and in battle you bolstered the courage of Nestor.

Pray to Christ our God, O holy Dimitrios, that He may grant us great

mercy.

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 Greatmartyr Demetrius of Thessalonika the Myrrh-Gusher, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.