Reader’s Great Vespers on Tuesday of the Paralytic

May 12th, 2020

Feast of Mid-Pentecost

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)

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.

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.

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.

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

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

The middle of the fifty days is here,

that began with the Savior’s Resurrection,

and is sealed by the divine Pentekost.

The first and the last glisten with splendor!

We rejoice in the joy of both feasts

as we draw near to the Master’s Ascension //

which prefigures our coming glorification.

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

Zion heard and was glad,

when the good tidings of the Resurrection were proclaimed.

## Her faithful offspring rejoiced when they saw him

also washing away by the Spirit

the stain of the murder of Christ. //

Keeping festival she makes ready the joyful midfeast.

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

As it is written,

the abundant outpouring of the Spirit on all is drawing near.

The chosen day of the Spirit is halfway come.

The faithful promise to the disciples

after the death, burial, and Resurrection of Christ, //

proclaims the coming of the Comforter.

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We have assembled, O Christ,

to praise the miracle of your mysteries:

The midfeast of your Resurrection and the coming of your Holy Spirit. //

Send down on us great mercy!

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!

**The reading is from the Prophecy of Micah!**

Thus says the Lord: Out of Zion shall go forth a law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge between many peoples, and shall rebuke strong nations afar off. For all people will walk every one in his own way, but we will walk in the name of the Lord forever.

Thus says the Lord Almighty: “Hear, O mountains, the complaint of the Lord, and you valleys, even the foundations of the earth; for the Lord will enter into judgment with His people, and will contend with Israel. O my people, what have I done to you? Or in what have I grieved you? Answer me! For I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and out of the house of bondage, I delivered you; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now, what the adversaries counseled against you, and who declared against you.

I have declared to you, O man, what is good; or what does the Lord require of you, except to do justice, and love mercy, and be ready to walk humbly with the Lord your God? For the Lord shall be exalted in strength, and shall tend His flock in peace, even to the ends of the earth.

**The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah!**

Thus says the Lord: “You that thirst, go to the water, and as many as have no money, go and buy; and eat and drink, without money or price, wine and fat.” For thus says the Lord Almighty to you: “My people, draw water with gladness out of the fountain of salvation.” And you shall say in that day, “Sing to the Lord, call aloud upon His name, proclaim His glorious deeds among the nations; make known that His name is exalted.”

“My people, hearken to me and you shall eat that which is good, and your soul shall delight in good things. Give heed with your ears, and follow my ways. Hearken to me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant. And you shall call upon me. And when you shall draw near to me, let the impious depart from his ways, and the transgressor his counsels; and you shall return to me, and I will forgive you and will forgive your sins.

“For my counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. But as the heaven is distant from the earth, so are my ways distant from your ways, and your thoughts from my thoughts. For as rain shall come down, or snow, from heaven, and shall not return thither until it waters the earth, bring forth and sprout, and give seed to the sower, and bread for food, so shall my word be. Whatever shall proceed out of my mouth, shall not return to me empty until it has accomplished all that I have purposed; and I will set aright your ways, and effect my commandments.

“For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy; for the mountains and the hills shall skip, awaiting you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall clap with their branches. And instead of the bramble shall come up the cypress; and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle. And the Lord shall be for a name, and for an eternal sign, and shall not fail,” says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.

The reading is from the book of Proverbs!

Wisdom has built her house; she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her maids to call from the highest places in the town, “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who is without sense she says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

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:

The middle of the fifty days is here,

in which Christ manifested his divine power.

He made the paralytic whole,

and raised him from his bed by a word!

In the flesh he worked signs and miracles, //

granting men eternal life and great mercy!

Verse: Remember your congregation, which you have gotten of old!

You came to the temple, O Wisdom of God,

in the middle of the feast,

to teach and edify the Jews, the Scribes, and the Pharisees:

## “Let him who thirsts come to me and drink the water of life!

He will never thirst again!

Whoever believes in me, streams of living water shall flow from him!”

How great is your goodness and your compassion! //

## Glory to you, O Christ our God!

Verse: In the 2nd Tone: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Jesus went up to the temple in the middle of the feast,

and proclaimed to the Jews:

“Let him who thirsts come to me and drink!

I will give him the water of life,

and he will never thirst again.

Living streams will flow from the heart of him who believes in me; //

He will find the Light of the world!”

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

While you were teaching the Jews in the midst of the feast, O Savior,

they said: “How can this man be learnèd, who never studied?”

They would not believe that you are the Wisdom who created

the world. //

O Lord, glory to you!

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.

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

Tone 8:

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,

fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness,

as you cried to all: “If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink!” //

O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to you!

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!