Reader’s Vespers on Bright Friday

April 24th, 2020

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)

Verse 1: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 2: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 3: So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 4: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

In the 8th 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.

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

We offer unto Thee, O Christ, \* an evening hymn and spiritual worship; \* because Thou wast well-pleased to have mercy on us \* through the Resurrection.

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.

O Lord, cast us not away \* from Thy presence; \* but be well-pleased to have mercy on us \* through the Resurrection.

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

Rejoice holy Zion, \* Mother of the Churches, \* dwelling-place of God; \* for it was thee who first received forgiveness of sins \* through the Resurrection.

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, begotten of God the Father before all ages, \* hath in the last times become incarnate of her who knew not wedlock, \* and willingly endured the crucifixion and death, \* and mankind, slain of old, hath thereby been saved \* through His own Resurrection.

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

We glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, \* through which Thou hast freed the race of Adam from the tyranny of Hades, \* and as God hast granted the world eternal life \*\* and great mercy.

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

Glory be to Thee, O Christ Savior, \* only-begotten Son of God, \* affixed by nails to the cross and risen from the tomb \*\* on the third day.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

We glorify Thee, O Lord, \* and we worship Thee, O all-powerful Savior, \* who willingly endured the cross for our sake; \* cast us not away from Thy presence, \* but hearken unto us and save us through Thy Resurrection, \* O only Lover of mankind.

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

In His love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared on earth \* and dwelt among men; \* for He Who received flesh from the pure Virgin \* and cameth 3 forth from her having received human nature, \* is the only Son of God, twofold in nature \* but not Hypostasis. \* Therefore, proclaiming Him to be truly perfect God and perfect man, \* we confess Christ our God. \* Him do thou beseech, O unwedded Mother, \*\* that our souls find 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 Great Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone:

Thou hast given an inheritance to them \* that fear Thy Name, O Lord.

Verse: From the ends of the earth unto Thee have I cried. I will dwell in Thy tabernacle unto the ages.

Verse: I shall be sheltered in the shelter of Thy wings. For Thou, O God, hast heard my prayers.

Verse: So will I chant unto Thy Name unto the ages, that I may pay my vows from day to day.

Thou hast given an inheritance to them \* that fear Thy Name, O Lord.

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 8th Tone:

O Christ, having descended from heaven, \* Thou didst ascend the Cross; \* O immortal Life, Thou didst descend into Hades; \* the true Light, unto those in darkness; \* the Resurrection unto all to those who had fallen. \*\* Our illumination and our Savior, glory be to Thee.

In the 5th Tone:

Verse: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; \* Pascha new and holy, \* a Pascha mystical, \* a Pascha all-venerable! \* A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; \* a Pascha immaculate, \* a great Pascha; \* a Pascha of the faithful; \* a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; \*\* a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, \* and say ye unto Zion: \* Receive from us the good tidings \* of the Resurrection of Christ; \* adorn thyself, exult, \* and rejoice, O Jerusalem, \* for thou hast seen Christ the King, \*\* like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women \* in the deep dawn \* stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; \* they found an angel sitting upon the stone, \* and he, speaking to them, said thus: \* Why seek ye the Living among the dead? \*Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? \*\* Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, \* the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. \* Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. \* O Pascha! \* Ransom from sorrow, \* for from the tomb today, \* as from a bridal chamber, \* hath Christ shone forth, \* and hath filled the women with joy, saying: \*\* Proclaim unto the apostles.

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

It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant for the feast, \* and let us embrace one another. \* Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, \* let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, \* and thus let us cry out:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

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!

May Christ, risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life, our True God, through prayers of Holy Fathers and all the saints, have mercy on us. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life (3 times)

And unto us He has given eternal life; we worship His Resurrection on the third day!