Reader’s Vespers on Bright Thursday

April 23rd, 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 6th 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.

Victorious over Hades, O Christ, \* Thou didst ascend the Cross \* that Thou mightest raise up with Thyself \* those who sat in the darkness of death; \* free among the dead, \* Thou didst pour forth life from Thine own light. \*\* O Allpowerful Savior, have mercy upon us.

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.

Today Christ, having trampled on death, \* hath arisen as He foretold, \* granting joy to the world, \* that we may all shout aloud the hymn and say: \* O Source of life, O unapproachable light, \* O All-powerful Savior, \*\* have mercy upon us.

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

Where shall we sinners escape Thee, O Lord, \* who art present in all creation? \* In heaven? Thou dwellest there. \* In Hades? There Thou didst trample on death. \* In the depths of the sea? Thy hand is also there O Master. \* To Thee we flee and falling down before Thee we implore: \*\* O Lord risen from the dead, have mercy upon us.

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

Marvelous and strange things \* hath the Master of Heaven from the beginning accomplished in thee, \* O all-immaculate one; \* for He manifestly came down from on high \* like a gentle rain upon thy pure womb, \* showing thee, O Bride of God, \* to be a fount gushing forth with every kind of blessing; \* flowing forth with an abundance of healings \* unto all that beseech thee for strengthening of soul and health of body, \*\* by the waters of God's Grace.

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

As is meet, I call thee the Heavenly manna, \* and the divine spring issuing forth from Paradise, \* O Lady most blessed; \* for the stream of grace of thy Spring \* hath flowed forth unto the four ends of the earth, \* daily covering it with many awesome miracles; \* and all who have petitioned thee, \* and partake of the water, \* have their petitions fulfilled thereby. \* Wherefore, with rejoicing, \* all we who bear the Name of Christ \* make haste with faith, \*\* to draw the sacred water of its ever flowing sweet streams.

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

O Virgin thou dost ever freely gush forth streams of healings, \* unto those who with faith flee to thy spring, \* O Bride of God, \* truly abundantly dost thou issue forth healings \* unto the ailing and infirm: \* Shining brightly upon the blind that come unto thee, and they see, \* restoring a multitude of the lame, \* and granting strength unto paralytics; \* by a threefold pouring, thou didst bring to life one who was dead; \*\* and the sufferings of those with dropsy and respiratory maladies hast thou healed.

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

Who can tell of thy might O Spring, \* for thou dost pour forth an abundance of supra-natural healings \* from thine inexhaustible source of miracles? \* O how great are the mighty wonders which thou dost pour forth upon all! \* Thou hast not only driven away the grievous illnesses of those \* who draw nigh to thee with love, \* but thou dost also cleanse and wash away the passions of the soul, \* O all-spotless one, \*\* O thou who dost also bestow upon all thy great mercy.

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

Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? \* Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? \* For the only-begotten Son Who hath shone forth timelessly from the Father, \* came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, O pure one; \* By nature he is God, by nature for our sakes, he hath become a man \* not divided into two Hypostases, \* but known in two natures without comingling. \* Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one, \*\* 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 7th Tone:

I will love Thee O Lord my strength; \* the Lord is my foundation, and my refuge, and my deliverer.

Verse: My God is my helper, and I will hope in Him, my defender, and the horn of my salvation.

Verse: With praise shall I call upon the name of the Lord, and from mine enemies shall I be saved.

Verse: He heard my voice out of His holy temple, and my cry before Him shall enter into His ears.

I will love Thee O Lord my strength; \* the Lord is my foundation, and my refuge, and my deliverer.

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 6th Tone:

Thy Resurrection O Christ our Savior, \* The Angels in the heavens hymn; \* grant also unto us who are here on earth \*\* to glorify Thee with pure hearts.

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!