Reader’s Vespers on Friday January 22nd, 2021

Theophany Afterfeast -- St Gregory of Nyssa (January 10th/23rd)

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.

In the 7th 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.

Glory to you, O Christ God,

the apostles’ boast, the martyrs’ joy, //

whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity.

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 holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received your

crowns, //

Entreat the Lord that he may have mercy on our souls!

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

O martyrs, worthy of ev’ry praise,

living offerings and spiritual sheep,

acceptable sacrifices well-pleasing to God:

the earth did not cover you, but heaven received you.

You became companions of the angels.

We entreat you to pray with them to God our Savior //

to grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls

Glas 5: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

O ven’rable and holy father Gregory:

flute played by the breath of the Paraclete,

filled with the clear melody of godliness,

candlestick enlightening many with divine light,

herald of truth, foundation of theology,

fountain of heavenly doctrine,

torrent of teaching sweet as honey,

and lyre, playing songs written by God,

that gladdens the hearts of the faithful!

O wise father, pray without ceasing to Christ,

who was baptized in the streams of Jordan for the renewal of the world, //

that He may save our souls!

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

O ven’rable and all-praised Gregory:

battle axe hewing down the assaults of heresy!

Two-edged sword of the Paraclete,

dagger that pierces the heart of false doctrine,

fire that consumes the brushwood of error,

fan skillful to separate the chaff of vanities from the kernel of doctrine,

rule that measures the way to salvation with precision!

O wise father, pray without ceasing to Christ,

who was baptized in the streams of Jordan for the renewal of the world, //

that He may save our souls!

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

O ven’rable and blessèd Gregory:

your lips flow with gracious words

drawn from the divine fountain of salvation freely given:

Words of prayer, which you interpret for all,

and guide, who leads us in the straight path of righteousness:

You were adorned with the graces of contemplation;

you shone with the radiance of the uncreated Trinity.

O unconquered father, pray without ceasing to Christ,

who was baptized in the streams of Jordan for the renewal of the world, //

that He may save our souls!

In the 4th Tone: Glory…:

You were adorned with wise words and valiant deeds,

O Gregory of Nyssa,

You gladden the faithful with your God-proclaiming voice;

you enlighten us with knowledge

and explain the unity of the Trinity.

You defeated alien teachings with true doctrine;

and established the faith with strength!

Now you stand before Christ with His bodiless servants: //

Pray that He may grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

Now and ever... :

The hand of the Baptist trembled

when it touched Your immaculate head:

The Jordan turned back, not daring to minister to You!

### For how could that which stood in awe of Joshua the Son of nun

not be afraid before Joshua’s Creator?

But You, O Savior, have fulfilled all that was appointed,

so that You might save the world by Your Epiphany, //

O only Lover of mankind!

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 7th Tone:

Thou, O God, art my Helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from my enemies, O God, and redeem me from them that rise up against me.

Thou, O God, art my Helper,/ and Thy mercy shall go before me.

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 2nd Tone:

Let all creation,

now set free from bondage,

sing a new song to Christ

who shone from the Virgin, //

and was baptized in the Jordan today!

Verse: The sea looked and fled; Jordan was driven back!

The trumpet of prophets,

the Forerunner cried out:

“Offer to the Lord

who is baptized in the waters //

the fruits of repentance and good works.”

Verse: What ails you, O sea, that you fled; O Jordan, that you turn back?

The Holy Spirit

who shines from the Father

wonderfully descended from on high

in the form of a dove //

and was seen to rest on Christ.

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

O God-revealing Gregory,

you passed your life in godliness.

You made your actions radiant through contemplation,

and desired divine wisdom for your love.

### You were enriched with graces flowing from the Spirit!

Your words drip with sweetness, like honey from the comb,

and you gladden the Church of God with your divine thoughts!

Now you gaze upon the Lord in heaven: //

Never cease to pray for us who honor your memory.

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

John the Baptist saw You draw near.

who cleanse the sin of the world by Spirit and fire.

He cried out in fear and trembling saying:

I dare not touch Your immaculate head.

Sanctify me, O Master, by Your Epiphany, //

O only Lover of mankind!

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, have mercy on us. Amen.

Tone 4:

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,

an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence.

Because of your lowliness, heaven was opened to you;

because of your poverty, riches were granted to you. //

O Holy Bishop Gregory, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

In the 1st Tone: Glory… now and ever… :

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,

the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.

for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,

and called Thee his beloved Son.

and the Spirit, in the form of a dove

confirmed the truthfulness of his word.

O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself //

and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

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.

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 Father Among the Saints Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.