Reader’s Vespers on Friday January 29th, 2021

Our Venerable and God-Bearing Father Anthony the Great of Egypt (January 17th/30th)

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 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.

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.

O martyrs of the Lord,

you sanctify ev’ry place and heal ev’ry ill,

and now we entreat you:

Pray for our souls’ deliverance //

from the snares of the enemy.

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.

Your martyrs, O Lord,

forgot the things of this present life

and despised torture for the sake of the life to come.

They were granted eternal life as their inheritance,

and now they rejoice with the angels. //

Through their supplications grant great mercy to your people.

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

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise rightly is ascribed to the saints,

for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,

for your sake who bowed the heavens and came down.

They shed their blood for you who emptied yourself, taking the form of a

servant.

They humbled themselves even unto death,

following the example of your lowliness.

By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, //

according to your abundant mercy!

In the 4th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Burning with divine love and radiant with the Spirit,

your soul rose to desire truly infinite love!

You despised flesh and blood, and lived apart from the world,

yet you were united to it by great silence and abstinence.

Therefore you were fulfilled as you desired, //

and as a star radiant with blessings, O Anthony, you illumine our souls!

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

#### You were radiant with divine light by the grace of the Holy Spirit, O Anthony,

you shattered the flying weapons of the demons;

by your godly teachings you exposed their evil snares.

You were a radiant light for monks:

the first to adorn the desert;

a prayerful and skilled physician of the sick, //

and the first clear example of the ascetic life.

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

O Anthony, pure in heart and soul;

an earthly angel, a heavenly man!

A teacher of chastity, a clear measure of abstinence!

Now you live with your Master, O blessèd saint.

With the angels and the all-holy monastics and martyrs,

you offer Him unceasing praise. //

Set free from sin and danger those who ever keep your holy memory.

In the 6th Tone: Glory…:

You set your mind as master over the disturbing passions,

keeping the image unharmed through the ascetic life.

Therefore you rose into the perfect likeness,

for by bravely curbing nature, you hastened to subject what is lower to

that which is above:

you made the body servant to the Spirit.

Therefore you were revealed as the chief of those living the monastic

life,

a citizen of the desert, a master teaching those who hasten to you,

a perfect example of virtue.

Now the mirrors have been taken away, O Anthony,

and in heaven you clearly behold the Holy Trinity, //

as you pray directly for those who honor you with faith and love!

In the 8th Tone: Now and ever... :

The King of heaven, because of his love for man,

appeared on earth and dwelt with men.

He took flesh from the pure Virgin

and after assuming it, he came forth from her.

The Son is One in two natures, yet one Person.

Proclaiming him as perfect God and perfect man,

we confess Christ our God! //

Entreat him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls!

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 5th Tone:

Rejoice, O Anthony,

as you dwell on high with the angelic choirs!

For you truly learned their virtue, O blessèd saint.

You lived on earth, and appeared as a clear, undefiled image,

like a glass which received the brilliant lights of the Holy Spirit.

Thus enlightened, you saw what was to come:

taught by the divine manifestations of the light of Christ, you foretold

all things! //

Entreat Him to grant our souls great mercy.

# Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

Rejoice, O leader of ascetics

and their unconquered champion!

For cutting down passions to the root and opposing the attempts of

devils,

you bravely laid bare their weakness and soul-destroying error.

You made plain the invincible power and might of the Savior’s Cross.

Girded with it, you defeated all who reject the divine appearance of

Christ in the flesh. //

Entreat Him to grant our souls great mercy.

Verse: Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord; he has great delight in His commandments.

You were an overshadowing cloud,

strengthened as a shining pillar of virtues,

leading those in the desert from earth to heaven.

Thus you were a seer of God!

With the staff of the Cross, you destroyed the sea of the passions,

and by defeating the reasoning of Amalek,

you easily found the way into heaven, O blessèd one of God,

and an incorruptible inheritance.

Rejoicing, you stand with the angels beside the throne of Christ. //

Entreat Him to grant our souls great mercy.

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

We honor you, O Anthony, our father,

an instructor of a multitude of monks!

For through you we have learned to walk truly in the narrow path!

Blessèd are you who served Christ,

and triumphed over the power of the enemy,

O companion with the angels

and sharer with the ven’rable and righteous! //

With them, pray to the Lord that mercy may be granted to our souls.

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

O unwedded Virgin,

who ineffably conceived God in the flesh!

O Mother of God Most High!

Accept the cries of your servants, O blameless one!

Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!

Receive our prayers and pray to save 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, have mercy on us. Amen.

Tone 4:

By your zeal you equaled Elijah, O father Anthony,

you imitated the life of John the Baptist;

you founded a city in the wilderness;

you established the Church on the firm foundation of your prayers. //

Pray to Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

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 Venerable and God-Bearing Father Anthony the Great of Egypt, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.