Reader’s Vespers on Friday of the Samaritan Woman

May 22nd, 2020

Apostle Simon the Zealot (May 10th/23rd)

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 1st 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.

The Fountain of wonders came to the well at noon,

to ensnare the daughter of Eve.

Once, Eve had been driven out of Paradise by the serpent’s guile;

now a woman of Samaria comes to draw water.

The Savior saw her and said to her:

“Give me a drink of water

and I will fill you with the waters of eternal life!”

She ran to the town and proclaimed to the crowd:

“Come and see the Messiah, the Lord! //

He is the Savior of our souls!”

In the 2nd Tone: 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.

The Lord of compassion came to the well

and conversed with a woman of Samaria.

She said: “Give me your water that I may never thirst again!

I will drink from the fountain of joy and redemption! //

O Life-giving Lord, glory to you!”

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

The Word of the Father,

the co-eternal Son without beginning,

came and sat by the well, though he is the Fountain of healing!

A Samaritan woman came to draw water;

when the Savior saw her, he said to her:

“Give me a drink! Go, call your husband!”

She thought she was speaking not to God, but to a man:

She said: “I have no husband!” trying to evade him,

But the teacher said: “You speak the truth,

for you have had five husbands,

and the one living with you now is not even a husband.”

She was amazed by his words and ran back to the town!

She said to the crowd: “Come, see the Messiah! //

He grants the world great 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.

The wondrous Simon, boast of the apostles,

passed across the earth like a brilliant lightning bolt!

He dispelled the darkness of idolatry

with his saving, brilliant, and divine teachings!

## He enlightened all people to glorify one God in three persons, //

indivisible and undivided!

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

Like a rolling wheel,

the blessèd Simon ran swiftly through the ends of the earth!

He burned away the madness of idolatry from all the land,

lighting brilliant beacons with piety.

He kindled luminous fires of grace for the faithful

that they may worship one God in three persons, //

indivisible and undivided!

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

The most radiant and all-wondrous apostle Simon,

the teacher of the nations, the net of God,

draws us up from the depth of perdition with the height of theology!

The true preacher now wisely leads all to the knowledge of Christ.

He sets before us his accomplishments //

as a pleasing feast of all good things!

In the 2nd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As the namesake of zeal, O adm’rable Simon,

you zealously imitated the all-powerful God!

He revealed you to be filled with divine miracles,

for having unusual zeal, O blessèd apostle,

you were aptly called “the zealot,”

and obtained a calling consistent with your character!

Therefore, as you dwell on high with the choirs of heaven,

O seer of God, entreat the Word, //

that he may grant us great mercy!

In the 4th Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The prophet David was a father of the Lord through you, O Virgin!

He foretold in songs the one who worked wonders in you:

“At thy right hand stood the queen, thy mother, the mediatrix of life,

since God was freely born of her without a father!”

He wanted to renew his fallen image, made corrupt in passion;

so he took the lost sheep upon his shoulder,

and brought it to his Father,

joining it to the heavenly powers. //

Christ, who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world, O

Theotokos.

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: Deliver me from my enemies, O God, and from those 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 1st Tone:

O ever-mem’rable Simon,

you drank of the torrent of sweetness,

drinking with divine wisdom

the understanding of God which you fervently desired!

Now you have passed over with joy to him,

deified by the all-splendid glory //

and immeas’rable peace of the Trinity.

**Verse: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth and their**

**words to the ends of the universe!**

O all-wondrous Simon,

you contemplate the beauty of God,

looking upon it as far as you are able,

delighting in it through a higher union and deified by his gifts!

You reached with joy the only divine One whom you desired,

O ever-mem’rable preacher of Christ //

and now you dwell with the angels!

***Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament***

***proclaims His handiwork!***

O most-blessèd Simon,

you have shown yourself to be a faithful mediator between God and

men!

Now by your bold supplications,

turn Christ to us in steadfast love

and never cease to pray to the Lord //

that he may grant our souls peace and great mercy!

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

O most holy Simon,

disciple and apostle of Christ,

like a high flying eagle you soared over creation!

You burned up the falsehood of idolatry

with the fiery sound of your teachings,

leading the nations out of the depths of ignorance into the knowledge

of God. //

Now pray to Christ that he be merciful to us on the day of judgment!

In the 8th Tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In your inexpressible dispensation, you appeared on earth, O Christ

our God.

When the woman of Samaria heard your words, O Lover of man,

she left her jar at the well and ran to the town.

She said: “Come and see him who knew every secret hidden in my

heart!

Could he be the long-awaited Messiah, //

who will grant us great mercy?”

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:

When the women disciples of the Lord

learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse

and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen, //

granting the world great mercy!”

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

The mystery hidden from all eternity

unknown even by angels

through you, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth,

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us

by which he resurrected the first-created man, //

saving our souls from death.

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 the Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot, 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!