Reader’s Vespers on Friday July 31st, 2020

Our Venerable Father Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov (July 19th/August 1st)

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 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.

O most glorious wonder! \* A struggler for piety is revealed at Sarov, \* and the most wondrous Seraphim doth become a fervent intercessor for us before God. \* Rejoice, O Monastery of Sarov, that dost hold within thyself the relics of the venerable one! \* Leap for joy, O ye multitudes of the Orthodox, \* who have the most wondrous Seraphim as a defender amid misfortune and who cry unto him: \* Rejoice, thou light of the Russian land! \* Utterly disperse the legions of our adversaries, \*\* and beseech the Lord to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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 most glorious wonder! \* A struggler for piety is revealed at Sarov, \* and the most wondrous Seraphim doth become a fervent intercessor for us before God. \* Rejoice, O Monastery of Sarov, that dost hold within thyself the relics of the venerable one! \* Leap for joy, O ye multitudes of the Orthodox, \* who have the most wondrous Seraphim as a defender amid misfortune and who cry unto him: \* Rejoice, thou light of the Russian land! \* Utterly disperse the legions of our adversaries, \*\* and beseech the Lord to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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

O marvelous wonder! \* In the Monastery of Sarov, \* behold, the blessed Seraphim revealeth himself to us \* as an unshakeable pillar of piety. \* Wherefore, O ye assemblies of the divinely wise, \* be ye exalted in the spirit to the heights, \* crying to the venerable one: \* O venerable father Seraphim, \*\* beseech the Lord to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

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

Wondrous are Thy mysteries, \* O Christ our God, \* for Thou hast given us a beacon in the venerable Seraphim, \* a mighty champion for our right-believing hierarchs \* against the adversary, \* and intercessor for monks and all Orthodox Christians, \* and the boast and foundation of his holy monastery, \* who now doth entreat Thee, O Lord, \*\* to grant peace and great mercy unto our souls.

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

When thou didst enter the wilderness of Sarov, O venerable one, \* having utterly cast off thine own will, \* thou didst show steadfast obedience to all, \* for thou didst joyously endure vexation and dishonor. \* Thou didst receive blows and stripes from evil men, \* for whom thou didst yet pray, O venerable one. \* And glorifying thy most honored memory, \* we beseech thee, O venerable one: \*\* Beg the Lord to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

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

Blessed is the Monastery of Sarov, \* which hath thee, O venerable father Seraphim, as a treasury of virtues, \* a vessel of purity and chastity, \* a receptacle of grace, a fount of healings, \* a physician who cureth the infirm without fee, \* a true faster, a comforter of the afflicted, \* and a calm haven for those who are tempesttossed by the passions of life. \* O venerable father Seraphim, pray that peace and great mercy be granted unto us \*\* that keep thine honored memory.

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

Come, ye assemblies of the faithful, let us glorify our most wondrous father with songs of praise today, and let us cry thus unto him: O venerable father Seraphim, thou wast truly vouchsafed a godly life, receiving a crown of unfading glory from God. Wherefore, the Monastery of Sarov doth boast of thee, and the people, beholding the precious shrine of thy relics and the miracles that take place through thine intercession, glorify the Lord Who doth glorify thee. Beseech Him, O venerable father, that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

In the 6th Tone: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Who will not bless you, O most Holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?

The Only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from you he was ineffably incarnate:

God by nature, yet man for our sake,

not two persons, but one, known in two natures!

Entreat him, O pure and all-blessèd Lady, //

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 1st Tone:

Rejoice, converser with angels, O venerable Seraphim! Having lived piously on earth, thou didst teach the fear of the Lord unto the many who came to thee. Illumined by the grace of the most holy Spirit, thou didst behold as present things which were to come, and hast filled many that were suffering in spirit with compunction and joy. Wherefore, we beseech thee: Pray to the Lord on behalf of those who honor thee!

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord \* is the death of His saints.

Rejoice, most wondrous instructor of the erring, who wast vouchsafed to behold in the temple Christ the Lord with angels and archangels. And now, O venerable one, who in the heavens dost take unceasing delight in the vision of Him, do thou pray for us who keep thy memory in faith.

Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; \* in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

Rejoice, O venerable Seraphim, for thou hast commanded all to keep Christ's true faith; and, yearning for the life on high, thou didst disdain wealth, wherefore thou dost now behold the ineffable beauty of heaven and takest delight in the sweet hymnody of the angels. Entreat thou the Lord, that He grant us peace and great mercy.

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

O venerable father Seraphim, who can recount thy labors and sufferings? And what tongue can describe thy harsh life in the wilderness, thy vigils and fasting, yea, and thy life in seclusion, thy silence and unceasing prayer? Thou hast truly been shown to be the adornment of those who fast and a steadfast intercessor before God. Wherefore, we cry unto thee: Rejoice, O model of monastic life! Rejoice, great consolation amid misfortunes and sorrows, and fervent advocate for all! O venerable one, pray thou that our souls be saved!

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

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Redeemer, \* Who came forth from thy womb, O most pure one, \* and clothed Himself in my nature, \* hath freed Adam from the primal curse. \* Wherefore, like the angel we unceasingly cry out to thee, \* O most pure one, \* who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: \* Rejoice!, O Sovereign Lady, \*\* the intercession, protection and salvation of 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.

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Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Tone 4:

From thy youth didst thou love Christ, O blessed one; \* and, aflame with the desire to serve Him alone, \* thou didst struggle in the wilderness in unceasing prayer and labor; \* and with compunction of heart having acquired the love of Christ, \* thou wast shown to be the beloved favorite of the Mother of God. \* Wherefore, we cry unto thee: \*\* Save us by thy prayers, O our venerable father Seraphim.

Glory...now and ever…:

The mystery hidden from eternity

unknown even to the angels

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

God incarnate of you 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 our Venerable Father Seraphim of Sarov, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.