Reader’s Vespers on Friday August 28th, 2020

Postfeast of Dormition -- Translation of the Icon of the Savior Not-Made-By-Hands from Edessa to Constantinople (August 16th/August 29th)

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 4th 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.

He Who is God, \* the effulgent glory of God, \* and the express image of the Father, \* through His infinite loving-kindness, \* and by His divine will, \* is seen in an image, \* having worn the guise of a servant. \* As He alone knoweth how, \* He hath clearly depicted His likeness, \* with divine lineaments \* in the image of His face, \* and by His advent \* He hath brought together a multitude of angels and mortals, \*\* illumining the world, visible and invisible.

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.

Lo, God Who once glorified the face of Moses \* by the divine vision of His back parts, \* and through him sent the divinely inscribed law \* to the unbelieving people of Israel, \* hath come forth from Egypt, \* from the land of the Only-begotten \* to the Christian city of the people of the new Israel, \* in the divine lineaments \* of His original, awesome image. \* And we who have been deemed worthy to see Him face to face \*\* glorify Him.

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

He who reigneth over all creation, \* having taking upon Himself voluntary poverty, \* doth enrich with divinity \* those who acknowledge His lordship. \* Wherefore, He sent a divinely written letter \* to Abgar \* who asked of Him salvation and health, \* which he received through the likeness of Christ's divine countenance. \* And now joyously celebrating \* its arrival there, \* we rejoice with faith, \*\* drawing forth enlightenment therefrom.

In the 6th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

O Lord, Who fillest all things with divine grace, having in Thy goodness united Thyself to mankind, didst come forth as one Hypostasis in two natures, from the pure one. Thou Who art invisible was seen, and having received an image of Thy fleshly countenance, which thou didst fashion, we worship Thee, Who art depicted thereon, acknowledging Thee as Creator and Master.

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

O Lord, Thou Who hast come forth fulfilling the unapproachable dispensation which was foretold of old, and confirming it for the sake of Thy letter divinely sent to Abgar, hast revealed to the world Thine image, and thereby filled all things with joy. And now, Thou adornment of the crown of kings, Thou hast renewed Thine image again for us. Blessed art Thou, O Savior! Have mercy upon us!

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

We, who have seen the glorious works of Thine unapproachable descent, on earth and in the highest, O Lord, have been exalted. We, having obtained the image of the countenance of Thee Who art in the bosom of the Father; have been delivered from sufferings for its sake, and are enlivened, O Savior; for we who honor Thee, the Master depicted thereon, have thereby slain the serpent adversary. Blessed art Thou, O Savior! Have mercy upon us!

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

O Master, and Lover of mankind, great is the depth of Thy dispensation; for unto the benefit of Thy creation for generations of generations, Thou hast depicted the image of Thy most pure countenance, and sent it to Abgar who desired to see Thee, Who art invisible in Thy divinity, even to the cherubim, that he might see the image of Thee Who became incarnate for our sake, and suffered of Thine own will; and we are set afire by Thy love, which Thou hast poured forth upon us, for the sake of Thy great mercy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Choirs of virgins now mystically stand around the bed of the Virgin Mother today, and the souls of the righteous, surrounding it, glorify the Queen. The virgins offer their virginity to her as a gift, instead of myrrh; and the righteous offer her the immaterial hymnody of their virtues. For it befitteth the Mother of God, as Queen, to be escorted with radiant royal virtues. And we, entering with them upon a pure life, go forth to the burial of the Mother of our God, blessing her together in hymns and spiritual songs.

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 4th Tone:

Previously on the mountain, the Master \* elevated Peter and those with him, \* being transfigured before them, \* revealing the effulgence of His divinity \* and its uncreated light. \* And today He hath shown us His depiction. \* Let us bow down before it \* and venerate it with love, \* glorifying the dispensation of Jesus Who is the Lover of mankind, \*\* the Savior of our souls.

Verse: The light of Thy countenance, \* O Lord, hath been signed upon us.

Falling down, the pre-eminent apostles \* worshipped the Master on the holy mountain, \* as they beheld Him \* laying bare the light of the divine effulgence; \* and now we bow down before the image not made by human hands, \* which shineth more brightly than the sun, \* glorifying Jesus Who is the Lover of mankind, \* Who hath given it to us as a consolation, \*\* the Savior of our souls.

Verse: O Lord, in the light of Thy face shall they walk, \* and in Thy name shall they rejoice all the day long.

Making white the blackened image of man, O Creator, \* Thou didst reveal it on Tabor \* to Peter and the sons of thunder, \* removing all doubt concerning Thy Cross and suffering, \* and showing forth the effulgence \* of Thy second coming. \* And now, O Lover of mankind, \* do Thou bless and sanctify us, O Lord, \*\* with the splendor of Thy most pure image.

Glory ..., in the 6th Tone:

Thou didst become incarnate as Thou didst desire, O Lord; Thou didst will to assume our poverty, and didst show forth riches of compassion, whereby Thou hast deified me who am dust. We glorify Thee Who lovest mankind, gazing upon the image of Thy countenance. Thereby, O Savior, grant unto Thy servants entry into Eden unhindered, overlooking all our transgressions.

Now & ever ..., in the 8th Tone:

Jesus, thy Son and our God, O Theotokos, confirming His two natures, dieth as a man and riseth as God; and it was His good pleasure, O Mother of God, that thou diest also, lest the unbelieving consider His dispensation but a phantasm. For thou didst pass over to the land of heaven, O celestial Bride, taken up from the earth as from the chamber of thy dwelling. The air was sanctified by thy passage, as the earth was illumined by thy birthgiving. The apostles send thee forth, and the angels bear thee up. Wherefore, having buried thy most pure body and chanted funeral hymnody for thee, they gazed in awe and said with fear: This change is from the right hand of the Most High; for He dwelt within thee, and thou shalt not be shaken! O all-hymned Mother, depart not from thy watch over us; for we are thy people and the sheep of thy pasture, and we call upon thy name, asking salvation and great mercy for thy sake.

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 2:

We bow down before Thy most pure image, O Good One, \* asking forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God; \* for of Thine own will Thou wast well pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, \* that Thou mightest deliver from slavery to the enemy those whom Thou hadst fashioned. \* Wherefore, we cry to Thee in thanksgiving: \* Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, \*\* when Thou camest to save the world.

Tone 1: Glory...now and ever…:

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity, \* and in thy dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. \* Thou hast been translated unto life, \* since thou art the Mother of Life. \*\* And by thine intercessions thou dost deliver 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, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.