Reader’s Vespers on Tuesday February 2nd, 2021

Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor –– (January 21st/February 3rd)

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.

Nailed to the cross in the flesh, O Christ our God,

you have made man divine;

you have slain the Prince of Evil,

and set us free from the curse of the tree.

In your compassion having become an accursèd thing for us //

you conferred on the world blessing and great mercy.

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 Master, beyond all earthly honor,

you were pleased to suffer shame.

You are boundless in compassion,

enduring shameful death on the tree.

Therefore, O Almighty One, by your death in the flesh //

man has won immortality and restoration of your image.

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

O most precious Cross,

the purification of the faithful,

you sanctified all those who embrace you in love,

thus glorifying Christ who stretched out his pure hands on you, //

and gathering from the ends of the earth all men into one.

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.

You proclaimed to all, O blessèd Maximus,

the One who was well-pleased to become man in His compassion;

who is known in two wills and energies,

You stopped the gaping mouths of the most evil ones,

who through the wantonness of the devil, //

wrongly proclaimed Christ with only one will and one energy.

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

By the strength of your doctrines, O father Maximus,

you choked the evil-minded Pyrrhus.

He spoke vain and foolish things!

You underwent persecutions and sorrows, O blessèd father:

You were badly beaten, and your tongue cut out;

your divine hand which you raised to God, was cut off, //

yet with it you had written the most sublime doctrines, O righteous

Maximus!

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

Your tongue became as the pen of a ready scribe,

sharpened by the Spirit, O father Maximus.

With grace it inscribed upon the tablets of our hearts,

the writing of divine virtues

and the incarnation of Him who willed to be made manifest to all

mankind //

in two Natures and one Person!

In the 6th Tone: Glory…:

The sound of your teachings has gone out into all the earth,

O ven’rable father Maximus!

Therefore you have found the reward of your labors in the heavens.

You destroyed the hosts of demons

and reached the ranks of angels whose life you blamelessly followed!

Since you may approach Christ our God boldly, //

entreat peace for our souls!

Now and ever... :

When, of old, the unblemished ewe-lamb and immaculate Sovereign Lady,/ beheld her Lamb/ upon the tree of the Cross,/ she exclaimed maternally, and marveling cried aloud:/ “O my Child most sweet,/ what is this new and most strange sight I see?/ How hath the thankless synagogue/ betrayed Thee to the judgment-seat of Pilate/ and condemned Thee to death,/ Who art the Life of all?/ Yet do I hymn Thine ineffable condescension,// O Word!”

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 1st Tone:

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life!

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me/ all the days of my life!

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:

The Cross was planted on the place of the skull,

and from the eternal spring

that flowed from the side of the Savior; //

it blossomed for us the flower of immortality!

Verse: Unto thee do I lift up mine eyes, O thou who dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants are upon the hands of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden are upon the hands of her mistress, even so our eyes are upon the Lord our God, until he be compassionate unto us.

The precious cross of the Savior

is our fortress and unshakable wall, //

for we who have put our hope in it are saved.

Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for long have we been filled with abasement. Yet more is our soul filled with the reproach of the wealthy, and with the abasement of the proud.

You made a wise exchange, O saints.

You offered your blood and received heaven in return.

You suffered for a time and now rejoice eternally.

Your trade was wise indeed!

Forsaking the corruptible, you received the incorruptible.

Now rejoicing with the angelic host, //

you ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity.

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

We honor you, O Maximus, 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:

“What is this sight which I see,/ which mine eyes behold, O Master?/ How is it that Thou Who dost sustain all creation,/ art lifted up upon the Tree and diest,/ granting life unto all?”/ thus said the Theotokos weeping,/ upon seeing God and man/ Who had shone forth ineffably from her// hanging upon the Cross.

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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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 8:

O champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship,

the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of the hierarchs:

O all-wise father Maximus, your teachings have gleamed with light

upon all things. //

Intercede before Christ our God to save our souls!

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 Maximus the Confessor, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.