Reader’s Vespers on Tuesday March 2nd, 2021

St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome –– (February 18th/March 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 5th 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.

#### Like a lamb you were led to the slaughter

thereby overthrowing the arrogance of the Deceiver.

Nailed to the Cross, you sanctified the whole earth with your blood;

and pierced with the lance, you commanded the flaming sword to turn aside;

the entrance to Paradise has been opened for all,

and boldly I partake of the Tree of Life.

Being saved by your passion, I cry out joyfully:

“Glory to your precious Cross!”

By enduring death, you delivered us from the ancient curse, //

bestowing the blessing of the Tree and your 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.

In your desire to end the suffering and shame of man,

you endured a shameful death, O Lord.

O Height of Goodness! O my Savior!

You, in whom there is no guile, have tasted gall.

Your side was pierced by a lance;

your blood has healed all our wounds, O Master.

Thus do we sing the praise of your glorious passion,

and venerate the lance, the sponge, and the reed, //

by which you granted the world peace and great mercy.

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

O compassionate Lord,

how could the multitude of transgressors

mercilessly condemn you to be crucified?

When the Virgin, who brought you forth from her womb without pain

saw you hanging upon the Cross, she wept and said:

“What is the lawless assembly doing to you, O my child,

the joy of my heart, my most belovèd Son?

Make haste to save those who in faith glorify your crucifixion.

and according to the promise given to me, O good One, //

save also those who throughout all generations will magnify me!”

In the 8th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

What shall we call you, O God-inspired Leo?

The head of the Orthodox Church of Christ?

An eye of piety who sees hearts with spiritual understanding,

that pours out the word of life to all the ends of the earth?

A divinely inscribed scroll of the true faith? //

Pray that our souls may be saved!

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

What shall we now call you, O wondrous Leo?

A preacher of the truth and firm foundation?

A senior among the honored council?

An excellent rule of teaching, possessing the measure of correction?

#### The one who cut down with divinely-wrought revelations//

#### the division of Nestorius and the confusion of Eutyches?

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

What shall we now call you, O marvelous Leo?

A prince and ruler in spiritual splendor,

who exercises mastery over the passions of the body?

A vessel of divine mercy and dwelling of perfect love?

A loving pastor who awaited the repentance of sinners? //

Pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory… now and ever... :

Beholding Christ hanging upon the Tree,

the pure Virgin cried aloud:

“A sword has pierced my heart and torn it.

This was foretold to me long ago by Simeon;

I beseech You earnestly, O Immortal One,

rise again, O my Master and my Son, //

and glorify with yourself Your own Mother and Handmaiden.

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 5th Tone:

Moses, your prophet, stretched out his arms in the form of a cross,

and the forces of Amalek were destroyed.

Now that we have your Cross itself, we beseech you, O Lord,

Strengthen your Church and give her victory over the Enemy //

for the sake of your great mercy, O Lover of man!

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.

Though your Cross appears to be only wood, O Christ,

it is arrayed with the power of your divinity,

and makes itself visibly felt in the world;

For by it you hast wrought the miracle of our salvation. //

Venerating it, we glorify you, O Savior.

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

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs,

so that we may be delivered from our sins, //

for to you is given grace to pray of us.

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

God the Creator, assuming my form, was clothed in my flesh.

In his desire to rescue me, his fallen image,

he was lifted up of his own will upon the Cross.

His hands, of his own accord, were nailed to it,

healing the hands that in ancient times sinned by eating from the Tree.

When the pure Virgin beheld you, she lamented:

“What unsurpassed long-suffering is yours, O my Son!

I cannot bear to behold you lifted upon the Cross, //

for you hold the earth in the hollow of your hand.”

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 Leo, 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 Saint Leo the Great, Pope of Rome, and of all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.