Reader’s Vespers on Tuesday March 9th, 2021

St Tarasius of Constantinople –– (February 25th/March 10th)

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 6th 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.

When you were crucified, O long-suffering Lord,

the whole earth quaked and trembled,

and you confirmed the hearts of the faithful.

Therefore with pure hearts we sing your praises //

and venerate with love you boundless power.

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.

You were smitten and spat on, O Christ,

but ev’ry blow you endured struck down the evil of the Enemy,

thus reversing the fall which had hurled us down, //

for in our folly we had been ravished by proud knowledge.

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

The sun hid its face and the earth quaked, O Lord, //

when it beheld you nailed unjustly on the tree, //

and the rocks were split apart and fell.

In the 1st 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 preferred death over life, O blessèd Tarasius,

thus you commanded the icons of Christ God and all His saints

to be restored against to their proper place;

In this way, as the Prophet David said:

“the mouths of the heretics are stopped, //

who spoke many unjust things against our God.”

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

Since you shook off the grievous disease of greed

you obtained the treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven,

O righteous and renowned father of a godly mind;

to those that draw near with faith,

the holy shrine of your relics //

grants healing of all maladies with godly strength.

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

You lived by the holy commandments of the Lord,

and were a great example to your flock, O wise father Tarasius;

therefore, even now, through your teachings we are preserved.

But never cease to intercede for us, //

who with joy observe your memory.

Glory… now and ever... :

### As she considered the Lamb who was hanging on the Cross,

### the pure and blameless Virgin cried with weeping and mourning:

### “O my sweetest Child, please tell me,

### what is this new and astonishing sight?

### How are You nailed in the flesh on the Tree //

who hold the whole world in Your hand?”

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:

With great joy let us accept, O ye faithful, \* the Godly inspired tidings of the Fast, \* as did the Ninevites of old, \* and also the harlots and the publicans \* who hearkened to the preaching of repentance by John. \* Through abstinence let us prepare ourselves to attend \* the Master’s divine mystery in Zion. \* With tears let us wholly cleanse ourselves \* before the sacred washing of the Feet; \* and let us pray that we may behold the fulfillment and revelation of the true Passover. \* Let us make ready to worship the Cross and resurrection of Christ God, \* that we may cry aloud to Him: \*\* Deprive us not of our expectation, O Lover of mankind.

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.

With great joy let us accept, O ye faithful, \* the Godly inspired tidings of the Fast, \* as did the Ninevites of old, \* and also the harlots and the publicans \* who hearkened to the preaching of repentance by John. \* Through abstinence let us prepare ourselves to attend \* the Master’s divine mystery in Zion. \* With tears let us wholly cleanse ourselves \* before the sacred washing of the Feet; \* and let us pray that we may behold the fulfillment and revelation of the true Passover. \* Let us make ready to worship the Cross and resurrection of Christ God, \* that we may cry aloud to Him: \*\* Deprive us not of our expectation, O Lover of mankind.

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.

Wise was the trade that ye made, O saints! \* Giving your blood, and inheriting heaven as your reward; \* Having suffered tribulation for a time, ye now rejoice eternally. \* Truly wisely have ye traded: \* forsaking things corruptible, \* ye have received things incorruptible; \* and rejoicing with the choirs of angels \* ye now continually hymn the praises \*\* of the consubstantial Trinity.

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

Once, when the unblemished Virgin \* beheld on the Tree \* Him to Whom she had given birth from her seedless womb, \* unable to endure the wounding of her womb, \* she said, rending her hair: \* “O Thou Who sustainest all creation, \* how hast Thou been uplifted upon the Cross \* as one condemned, \*\* desiring to save mankind in every way?”

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.

O Theotokos and Virgin, rejoice! Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb; for thou hast born the Savior of our souls.

(***prostration***)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O Baptizer of Christ, keep us all in remembrance, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; for to thee was given grace to intercede for us.

(***prostration***)

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Plead in our behalf, O holy apostle and all the saints, that we may be delivered from perils and afflictions; for we have acquired you as fervent mediators before the Savior.

(***prostration***)

Beneath thy compassion do we take refuge, O Theotokos; disdain not our supplication in times of affliction; but do thou deliver us from perils, O only pure, O only blessed one.

(***bow from waist***)

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. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord bless!

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

O Heavenly King, strengthen Orthodox Christians, establish the Faith, subdue the nations, give peace to the world, keep well this holy city; settle our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and receive us in penitence and confession, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, or idle talk. (***prostration***)

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love, to me Thy servant. (***prostration***)

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (***prostration***)

O God, cleanse me, a sinner (***12 times, with a bow from the waist each time***)

Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, or idle talk.

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love, to me Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (***prostration***)

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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 St. Tarasius of Constantinople, and of all the saints, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.