Reader’s Vespers on Tuesday June 30th, 2020

Holy Martyr Leontius with His Companions (June 18th/July 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 2nd 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 ascended the Cross,

the sun was darkened, unable to give its light;

The earth quaked and the rocks were split.

The veil of the temple was torn in two.

The graves were opened and the dead arose.

Hell gave up all those that were held in darkness.

The devils were defeated, //

and for all men, sleep took the place of death.

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.

When the thief beheld you, O Christ,

the only fruitful Vine,

he prudently seized pardon from you;

With few words his long life of sin was forgiven.

Let us all hasten to follow his example; //

O Lover of man, remember us all in your kingdom!

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

Your divine Cross shines as a star in your holy Church, O Christ.

It burns the demons but enlightens the faithful.

It shames the transgressors that crucified you,

for in ancient days you defeated the enemy by the outstretched hands of

Moses;

You led your people out of bondage; //

In the wilderness you satisfied them with honey from the Rock.

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, glorious one?

An offering of Greece, for you came from there?

Or the purification of Crete, for you were offered there?

A lamp, for you shone forth in the darkness?

A valiant one, for you were unconquered by those who wounded you?

Your honor takes many forms, most blessed Leontius!//

Pray that our souls may be saved!

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

What shall we name you, passion-bearer?

Soldier of Christ, for you destroyed the enemy?

Ruler of passions, for you were an athlete of piety?

Feeder of the hungry, since you love the poor?

Righteous one, for you loved heavenly wisdom?

Many were your sufferings and splendid your struggles!//

Pray that our souls may be saved!

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

Who will not wonder at you, Leontius?

Since you received the well-spring of truth,

you pour forth rivers of benefaction to the faithful.

Without payment, you distribute abundant gifts to all who ask!

You gladden those who partake of the waters of goodness!//

Pray that our souls may be saved!

In the 1st Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

All-praised athlete, Leontius,

neither fire, nor wounding, nor the sword

were able to separate you from the love of Christ!

You suffered manfully in the midst of the tormentors!

Divinely-wise bearer of the crown of victory,

you abolished the offerings of idols!

Now you dance in the heavens://

Pray earnestly that our souls may be saved!

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

On seeing your unjust slaughter, O Christ,

the pure Virgin cried in grief:

“How do you die unjustly, O most-sweet child?

How is it that he who suspended the earth on the waters,

is now suspended from the Tree?

O most-merciful Benefactor, //

do not leave me, your mother and handmaid, alone.”

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 2nd Tone:

Save me, O Savior Christ

by the power of your Cross

you, who saved Peter in the sea, //

and have mercy on me, O God!

Verse: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven.  Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.

The slayers of the Just One, who had delighted in your gifts,

cried aloud: “Let him be crucified!”

Instead of the Lover of man they asked for a criminal.

You endured their arrogance in silence, O Christ, //

in your desire to suffer and save us.

## Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement.  Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.

The company of the martyrs

resisted tyrants, saying:

“We are soldiers of the King of the heavenly hosts.

Even if you give us up to torment and fire, //

we will not deny the power of the Trinity.”

In the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Let heaven rejoice in splendor today!

Let us the faithful on earth be glad

in the memory of the martyr Leontius!

For today has come, crowned not with irrational sacrifice,

but with spiritual flowers and the sacrifice of praise!

For as we offer the bloodless service to the Bestower of crowns,

he stands with us, adorned and radiant,

entreating for us that those who keep his memory in faith//

may attain the courts of Paradise!

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen:

When the all-pure Virgin beheld you crucified, //

O only Lover of man

She lamented, crying: “What is this, O my son?

How do the graceless people reward your goodness towards them?

Why do they hasten to make me childless? //

I glorify your voluntary passion, O compassionate Lord!”

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 4:

Your holy martyr Leontius, Lord,

through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God!

For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,

and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//

Through his intercessions, save our souls!

Glory...now and ever…:

O most immaculate Virgin, \* Mother of Christ God, \* a sword pierced thy most holy soul \* when thou didst behold thy Son and God \* crucified of His own will. \* Him do thou never cease to entreat, O blessed one, \*\* that He grant us the forgiveness of our transgressions.

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 the Holy Martyrs Leontius and His Companions Hypatius and Theodulus, of our Holy Fathers and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.