Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday, January 20th, 2021

Afterfeast of the Theophany –– Venerable George of Hozena and Venerable Domnica of Constantinople –– (January 8th/21st)

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.

### Attacks of thoughts did not shake the citadel of your soul,

for as your strong rampart, O all-blessèd George,

you surrounded yourself with firm and steadfast ascetic effort.

In this way you preserved yourself whole

above the harm of the wicked enemy.

You went to stand before the Master of all things, O righteous father, //

adorned with the crown of victory.

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.

### Neither the long road, nor the severity of the place

could weaken your strong and fiery zeal

to make your journey to God, O George.

When you arrived at your destinations

by the feet of our Lord and God,

you left nothing undone in your labors and ascetic deeds, //

until you came into Zion in Heaven’s heights.

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

You manifested your heartfelt love in compunction and fervent tears,

which soaked the earth through, O glorious George.

You wiped Christ’s footstool with the hairs of your blessèd head.

### He witnessed this, being present to you who longed for Him,

and in mind you laid hold of His feet

by most divine and sacred visions, //

thus making your soul bright and radiant.

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

Showing the desire of thy heart,/ with compunction thou didst water the earth with tears, O glorious one,/ and didst wipe the footstool of Christ with thy hair;/ and, mindful of Him,/ and beholding Him as present,/ thou didst love Him/ and follow His footsteps in thought,/ enlightening thy soul// with most divine visions.

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

Thou didst shine forth from the western lands/ even unto the East, O all-blessed one,/ shining like a most radiant star/ with the rays of thy virtuous works, O venerable one,/ and illumining the thoughts of the faithful/ with the splendor of thy miracles./ Wherefore, we call thee blessed/ and honor thy memory,// magnifying Christ Who hath glorified thee with honor.

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

Wounded with desire for the love of Christ,/ O all-praised Domnica,/ thou didst follow after Him,/ having spurned corruptible glory,/ the pleasures of the flesh and every other delight of life./ Wherefore, Jesus, the Savior of our souls,/ Who is the Lover of mankind,/ hath granted thee to dwell// in a most splendid bridal chamber.

In the 1st Tone: Glory… now and ever... :

He who covers the heaven with clouds

is covered today by the streams of Jordan;

He who takes away the sin of the world

is cleansed, that I may be made clean.

The Only-begotten Son of the Most High Father

receives from above the testimony of the consubstantial Spirit.

Let us cry aloud to Him:

“O Christ our God, You have made Yourself manifest and saved us! //

Glory to You!”

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 5th Tone: Save me, O God, by Thy name, and judge me by Thy strength!

 **Verse**: O Lord, hearken unto my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Save me, O God, by Thy name,/ and judge me by Thy strength!

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Holy One; enlighten me with Your precepts. Your mercy endures forever, O Lord! Do not despise the works of Your hands! To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto 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 6th Tone:

You are the radiant Light, O my Jesus,

who enlightens all mankind.

You were baptized in the streams of Jordan, O Light,

who are one in essence with the Father of lights.

In You all creation shines brightly, and cries aloud: //

“Blessèd is our God made manifest! Glory to You!”

Verse: The sea looked and fled; Jordan was driven back!

Come, let us purify our senses!

Let us behold the fullness of divine glory in the flesh!

Let us see Christ baptized, fighting the enemy’s deceit!

Let us sing praises to His sinless head, crying out: //

“Blessèd is our God made manifest! Glory to You!”

Verse: What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

You are the fountain of life, O my Jesus,

In the river Jordan You give us to drink of Your compassion!

By Your thirst, You have refreshed us, O Lover of mankind.

We drink from Your fountain of light and incorruption, singing to You: //

“Blessèd is our God made manifest! Glory to You!”!

In the 2nd Tone: Glory… now and ever... :

Seeing You draw near to him in the river Jordan, O Christ our God,

John said: “You have no uncleanness, O Lord

Why do You come to Your servant?

In whose name shall I baptize You?

Of the Father? But You bear Him in Yourself.

Of the Son? But You Yourself are the Son made flesh.

Of the Holy Spirit?

But You know that through Your own mouth You give Spirit to

the faithful. //

“O God, who has shown forth, have mercy on us!”

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 1:

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,

the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.

for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,

and called Thee his beloved Son.

and the Spirit, in the form of a dove

confirmed the truthfulness of his word.

O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself //

and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

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 Venerable George of Hozena and the Venerable Domnica of Constantinople, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.