Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday, February 24th, 2021

Our Father Among the Saints Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch –– Our Father Among the Saints, Alesky, Metropolitan of Moscow –– (February 12th/25th)

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.

O blessèd and high priest Meletios,

you meditated day and night in the saving law as it is written.

Through the streams of asceticism you stood like a tree

which brings forth virtues as fruit by the grace of Him who shone on

your holy soul,

and who made it receptive to all manner of divine illuminations, //

which shone their spiritual light on you.

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.

By abstinence you quenched the rebellion of the flesh,

and calmed the passions, O father Meletios.

With the light of dispassion you made yourself radiant

and chastely ministered to Christ in purity;

We entreat Him to deliver from danger and corruption, //

those who faithfully honor your ven’rable memory.

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

As it says in the Song of Songs,

your blessèd cheeks were made beautiful like turtle-doves who love

temperance.

You scorned ev’ry delight in your desire for the soul’s delight.

Therefore Christ granted this to you, O all-wise hierarch Meletios,

since He has received your many contests

and the fiery zeal you had when braving dangers //

in the defense of the sacred Faith.

In the 5th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

## Rejoice, O great and hon’rable hierarch Aleksy,

## adorner of the Church and precious ornament of hierarchs.

## You help Orthodox Christians by your supplications.

## You are a great confirmation of the land of Russia,

## O honored teacher and help of the helpless,

## the joyous consolation of the grieving

## and fervent advocate of all who sorrow.

## You drive away the darkness of ignorance,

## and hasten to Christ at the calm havens.

## While standing among the choirs of angels,

## you delight in the beauty of the Master

## and have moved the hearts of the humble to song. //

## Pray to Christ that He grant to our souls peace and great mercy.

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

## Rejoice, O Aleksy, the beacon of the whole see of Russia!

## You have blossomed forth in virtue

## as a fruitful olive tree in the house of God.

## You produce diverse fruits

## and distribute them in abundance to your flock

## amid the pastures of the Spirit.

## There you give drink to them with the shower of your prayers

## and freely pour forth healings

## upon those who with faith venerate your holy relics.

## You have prepared yourself as a bright lamp

## and made your abode in the mansions of heaven

## where you received crowns for your labors;

## For you gave no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids

## until you slept the common sleep of all.

## O ven’rable hierarch Aleksy //

## pray to Christ that He grant our souls peace and great mercy.

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

## Rejoice, and be glad, O sacred Aleksy,

## the gracious preacher and steadfast intellect,

## and grapes of the vine of life sprung forth in holiness that issues wine which gladdens the hearts of the faithful with sweet-flowing teachings.

## Our honored teacher,

## come and visit us who are oppressed by sinful passions;

## cast down the audacity of the heathen;

## drive away the enemy;

## calm civil strife and ease all pain and illness. //

## Pray to Christ that He grant our souls peace and great mercy.

In the 4th Tone: Glory…now and ever... :

As I voyage upon the sea,

as I journey over hill and plain,

as I sleep throughout the night please keep me safe,

and as I awake, grant your grace upon my mind,

O all-blameless Maiden Mary;

advance me on my way to perform the Lord’s holy will,

so that I might find the remission of all sins I have committed in life //

in the day of dread judgment

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 4th Tone:

You have illumined the choir of the apostles

with the Holy Spirit, O Christ our God.

Through their intercessions wash away the filth of our sins, //

and in your compassion have mercy on us.

### 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 apostles who had no learning

were exalted and revealed as teachers of wisdom, O Christ our God.

By your almighty power you ended the confusion of speech, //

uniting all men by the harmonious song of the apostles’ tongues.

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

O martyrs of the Lord,

living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,

perfect victims, sheep who now God and are known by him,

whose fold no wolf can enter:

Pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

Deliver us from all peril,

O Mother of Christ our God,

you that gave birth to the Creator of all,

that we may all cry to you: //

“Rejoice, O strong protection of our souls.”

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:

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,

an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence.

Because of your lowliness, heaven was opened to you;

because of your poverty, riches were granted to you. //

O Holy Bishop Meletios, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Glory… now and ever…:

The fervent protector of Apostolic dogmas,
the pastor and teacher of the Russian Church:
by celebrating the memory of the blessèd bishop Aleksy
we glorify with songs Christ our God.
He has given us a faithful worker,
a fountain of healing grace, //
and the paise and confirmation of Orthodox Christians!

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 Fathers Among the Saints Meletios of Antioch and Aleksy of Moscow, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.