Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday July 22nd, 2020

Venerable Father Anthony of the Kievan Caves (July 10th/23rd)

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.

When divine desire \* fell upon thee, O venerable one, \* thou didst account passionate attachments to the world \* to be harmful; \* wherefore, forsaking thy homeland, \* thou didst arrive on the Holy Mountain, \* and there, in the midst of the fathers, \* thou didst shine forth in virtue \* like a beacon, O Anthony. \* Entreat Christ, Whom thou didst serve from thy youth, \*\* that He save and enlighten our souls.

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 thou wast set afire \* by the love of Christ, O venerable one, \* the wisdom and glory of this world \* didst thou despise \* as things which pass away; \* wherefore, thou didst make for thyself a cave, \* and therein didst struggle like an incorporeal being, \* for which cause thou wast deemed worthy from on high \* of the honors of the incorporeal ones. \* Standing with them before the throne of Christ, \*\* pray thou that He save and enlighten our souls.

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

When thou didst receive divine love \* into thy heart, O father, \* thou didst enter into a dark cave \* as though it were a most splendid bridal-chamber, \* and there thou wast enriched \* with the understanding of ineffable things, \* to behold the things of the future \* as though they were present, \* and to speak of them plainly unto all. \* Entreat Christ, for Whom thou didst labor from thy youth, O venerable one, \*\* that He save and enlighten our souls.

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.

O venerable father Anthony, having illumined thy mind with the grace of the most holy Spirit, as one with foresight thou didst therewith prophetically predict the wrath of God which would fall upon Orthodoxy. Wherefore, thou didst entrust the defense against foes unto Simon, and before the construction of the church thou didst foretell unto him that he would be laid to rest therein. Wherefore, we continually hymn thee as a mediator of good things for all, asking that through thee we may receive great mercy from Christ.

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

O venerable father Anthony, fulfilling the commandments of Christ, the true Shepherd and Teacher, and showing forth love even after thy departure, by thy supplications and appearance thou didst transform the deadly illness of Erasmus, who was living in sloth, pining for possessions; and having given him time for repentance, thou didst guide others to chastity. Wherefore, entreat Christ, that our souls be saved.

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

O venerable father Anthony, with God's help thou didst steer the ship of thy mind with chastity, safely sailing across the passion-fraught deep of the sea of this life impelled by the sail of the most holy Spirit, and didst reach the calm haven of paradise, where the habitation of the saints and the resting-place of the righteous are. With them do thou pray, we beseech thee, that we also may obtain entry there.

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Hard was thy way of life and thy labors for God, as the fathers of the Holy Mountain learned. Wherefore, in accordance with God's providence, they sent thee to thy homeland, saying: "Go, child, that through thee God may become known to those ignorant of Him there." There, when thou didst arrive, O venerable one, thou didst enlighten thy native land and didst become a leader of monks, bringing a multitude of them to Christ. Wherefore, pray thou that we who celebrate thy most splendid repose may be preserved unvanquished by the enemy, and that our souls be saved.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? \* Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? \* For the only-begotten Son Who hath shone forth timelessly from the Father, \* came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, O pure one; \* By nature he is God, by nature for our sakes, he hath become a man \* not divided into two Hypostases, \* but known in two natures without commingling. \* Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one, \*\* that our souls find mercy!

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 God hear 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 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:

Thou didst follow the footsteps of Anthony the Great, O venerable one. \* For he made his abode in the desert for the sake of stillness, \* and was deemed worthy to have angels with whom to converse; \* while thou didst seclude thyself within a cave underground, \* and wast deemed worthy to behold ineffable light. \* Wherefore, emulating his way of life, \* thou didst receive a name in accordance with thy deeds. \* Standing with him before the Holy Trinity, \*\* pray thou that our souls be saved.

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord \* is the death of His saints.

Thou didst shine forth in a dark place \* like a most radiant beacon, \* and as the prophet said \* thou didst flourish like a palm-tree in the house of God; \* and thou didst offer thyself unto the Master \* as a most holy fruit \* and a living, un-bloody sacrifice, O father. \* Wherefore, assembling with love, \*\* we all ever bless thee as is meet.

## Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; \* in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

The cave wherein lieth \* thy sacred body, \* O venerable Anthony, \* doth by the power of the most holy Spirit \* heal the divers ailments of those who approach it with faith: \* the demons are expelled from mortals, \* and paralytics walk away, receiving health. \* And, praising the Lord, we say: \*\* Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Wondrous is the influence and great the faith which thou hast acquired, O venerable Anthony, emulating the Prophet Elijah; for he drew down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, while thou didst draw down fire from heaven by thy supplication, to consume and cleanse the place where thou didst desire to erect the most precious temple of the Lady Theotokos. Wherefore, blessing thee as one who dwelleth with the venerable and who emulateth the prophets, we pray: Entreat Christ, that our souls be saved.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Redeemer, \* Who came forth from thy womb, O most pure one, \* and clothed Himself in my nature, \* hath freed Adam from the primal curse. \* Wherefore, like the angel we unceasingly cry out to thee, \* O all-pure one, \* who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: \* Rejoice!, O Sovereign Lady, \*\* the intercession, protection and salvation 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:

Leaving behind the tumult of the world, \* in accordance with the Gospel thou didst follow after Christ, rejecting the world; \* and living an angelic life, thou didst attain unto the calm haven of Holy Mount Athos, \* from whence, with the blessing of the fathers, thou didst go to Mount Kiev; \* and living there an industrious life, thou didst enlighten thy homeland; \* and showing a multitude of monastics the path which leadeth to the kingdom of heaven, \* thou didst lead them unto Christ. \* Him do thou beseech, O venerable Anthony, \*\* that He save our souls.

Glory...now and ever…:

The mystery hidden from all ages \* and unknown to the ranks of Angels, \* hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: \* God incarnate in an uncommingled union, \* Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, \* and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, \*\* and thus saved our souls from death.

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 our Venerable Father Anthony, of our Holy Fathers and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.