Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020

Postfeast of Dormition -- Holy Apostle Thaddeus and the Martyr Vassa and Those with Her (August 21st/September 3rd)

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 8th 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 blessed Apostle Thaddeus, \* having drawn nigh to the uttermost Light, \* thou didst truly become a secondary luminary \* by divine communion therein; \* and, destroying the night of polytheism, \* thou hast led men's souls to the Almighty. \* Wherefore, rejoicing and glorifying Christ, \* we honor thy radiant memory, \*\* luminous and harmonious.

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.

O blessed and God-pleasing Thaddeus, \* after the divine and radiant resurrection of Christ \* and His most holy ascension into heaven, \* thou didst engage \* in the preaching of God \* for the city of Edessa; \* and by thy words and miracles \* didst confirm in the truth \*\* Abgar, the local ruler, and all with him.

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

O blessed and divinely wise Thaddeus, \* by thy divine touch \* thou didst impart the gift of sight to the blind, \* the ability to walk to the lame and health to the infirm, \* strength to the paralyzed, \* and saving understanding to the ignorant; \* for thou wast full of the gifts of the all-accomplishing Spirit, \* O thou who art most noetically rich. \*\* Wherefore, we hymn thee.

In the 4th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Thou didst endure the suffering \* of many torments, O all-praised one; \* and having approached them with might, \* thou wast translated therefrom to rest without pain, \* to never-waning effulgence, \* to radiant joy, \* to everlasting and divine delight. \* Wherefore, we bless thee \* and celebrate thy holy solemnity today, \*\* O God-pleasing sufferer.

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

When thou wast cast into the sea \* after various \* and greatly painful torments, \* God, the Savior of all, saved thee \* who by His divine power trampled down \* the might of the alien one, \* O much suffering Vassa. \* Hence thou hast enlightened the minds of the pious \* having wrought signs \*\* past understanding and comprehension.

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

Giving voice in the meadows \* of beauteous martyrdom \* like a sweetly harmonious bird, \* thou didst summon thy comely nestlings, \* with them escaping the snare of deceit, \* O divinely wise and right wondrous Vassa. \* And with them hast thou made thine abode \* among the beauties of heaven, \* O most blessed one, \*\* ever praying for us all.

In the 2nd Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Come ye, let us celebrate the universal dormition of the all-immaculate Theotokos; for today the angels celebrate the honored repose of the Mother of God and call us mortals to gladness, that we may cry out with never-failing voices: Rejoice, O thou who hast been translated from earth and made thy habitation in the mansions of heaven! Rejoice, thou who hast brought together the choir of the disciples on clouds of light! Rejoice, our hope and salvation; for we, the Christian race, unceasingly bless thee!

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 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:

Come, ye bearers of lamps, and with sacred hymns and cymbals let us all honor the greatly praised dormition of the Theotokos and Mother; for she hath been translated from the earth, making her abode and dwelling with glory in the immaterial habitations, beholding the beauty of God, and pouring forth grace upon all who honor her memory with faith.

Verse: Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, \* Thou and the ark of Thy holiness.

The sacred choir of the apostles hath gathered together from the ends of the earth on the dew of divine clouds O Lady, to bury thy precious, God-pleasing and incorrupt body. Wherefore, the armies of heaven, invisibly surrounding thy bier, chanted with hymns unto thee: Rejoice thou most pure ark of holiness.

Verse: The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, \* and He will not annul it.

All thy dread mysteries are unapproachable, all are truly ineffable; for thou who art the Mother of God, hast rendered the heavens beautiful, enlightened the world, and perfumed all with thy divine memory. Wherefore, the nations call thee blessed and bless thee: Rejoice, O new ark of holiness!

In the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen:

Today the choirs of virgins mystically surround the bier of the Virgin Mother, and the souls of the righteous, surrounding them, glorify the Queen. The virgins offer their virginity instead of myrrh; and the righteous offer immaterial hymnody and virtue; for it is fitting that the Mother of God, as Queen, be accompanied by radiant royal virtues. And with them having led a pure life, let us go forth to the burial of her who is the Mother of our God, blessing her together with hymns and spiritual songs.

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 3:

O holy Apostle Thaddeus, \* entreat the Merciful God \* that He grant remission of sins \* unto our souls

Tone 1: Glory … now and ever…:

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity, \* and in thy dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. \* Thou hast been translated unto life, \* since thou art the Mother of Life. \*\* And by thine intercessions thou dost deliver 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 the Holy Apostle Thaddeus and the Martyr Vassa, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.