Reader’s Vespers on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020

Great Martyr Barbara –– Venerable John of Damascus –– (December 4th/17th)

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 Julianna saw the blessèd martyr Barb’ra

during her terrible trial suffering from her many wounds,

her body painfully torn in many places,

she cried out with tears of compassion:

“O Word of God and Lover of mankind //

grant this day that I may be her companion in martyrdom!”

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 saints Barb’ra and Julianna,

you are among those who have a true vocation for righteous living,

for you attacked the enemy and gravely wounded him!

#### Thus you are worthy of glorification by Christ God

for you trampled under foot the destroying passions and their evil, //

giving the means of healing to all the faithful!

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

O most-pure martyr Barb’ra,

when you were sentenced to die you faced sweet death with joy!

You swiftly fulfilled the act of martyrdom

slain by the hand of your most evil parent.

You were offered up as fruit to God!

Therefore with the wise virgins you truly rejoice //

as you behold the light of Christ, your Bridegroom!

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, O holy theologian John?

Another David, for your hymns are as the psalms for us?

You are the temple of the spirit and the pipe of the good shepherd.

You sweeten our ears and gladden our minds.

You cause the ranks of the church to rejoice!

Your teachings are a river of honey, flowing to the ends of the earth. //

Pray that our souls may be saved!

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

What shall we call you, O father John?

A messenger of God?

A shining star of the Holy Trinity?

You enlighten our eyes with delightful teaching.

You have entered into the cloud of divine knowledge.

Like Moses you behold mysteries surpassing words or speech.

You proclaim the music of his wisdom. //

#### 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.

#### What shall we call you, O blessèd John?

A shining lampstand?

A faithful minister of divine mysteries?

A joyful star for the church, enlightening those who dwell in darkness?

A well-tuned organ and sweet-sounding harp? //

Pray that our souls may be saved!

In the 6th Tone: Glory…:

You abandoned your home, your people and earthly riches.

You fled the hatred of an evil father, O Barb’ra;

you were wedded to God in a bond of love,

therefore He took you to Himself rejoicing. //

Pray that He may save our souls!

Now and ever... :

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 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 2nd Tone:

You have magnified the apostles throughout the world, O Savior.

By learning your mysteries,

they gave wondrous healing to those on earth.

Even their shadows made sick men whole.

The Israelite fishermen spoke with divine authority

concerning the teachings of grace.

By their intercessions, O compassionate one, //

grant us your great mercy!

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 take pity on us.

We flee to you, the God of truth.

Our evil deeds have become our enemies.

We offer you the words of the apostle,

“Save us, O Master, for we are perishing.”

In your mighty goodness overcome our enemies.

And by the prayers of your apostles,

shelter and save your people from affliction

overlooking their sins in your great goodness //

O Lord, glory to you!

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

Great is the glory that you obtained through faith, O saints,

for by you sufferings you triumphed over the enemy,

and after death you drive out demons and heal the sick.

O physicians of soul and body,

intercede before the Lord, //

that he may have mercy on our souls!

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

The sound of your teachings has gone out into all the earth,

O ven’rable father John!

Therefore you have found the reward of your labors in the heavens.

You destroyed the hosts of demons

and reached the ranks of angels whose life you blamelessly followed!

Since you may approach Christ our God boldly, //

entreat peace for our souls!

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 for 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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Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

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.

Tone 8:

Let us honor the holy martyr Barb’ra,

for as a bird she escaped the snares of the enemy, //

and destroyed them through the help and defense of the cross!

Glory…:

O champion of orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship,

the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of the hierarchs:

O all-wise father John, your teachings have gleamed with light upon all

things. //

#### Intercede before Christ our God to save our souls!

Now and ever…:

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin/ and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death,/ and as God revealed the resurrection:/ disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand./ Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One;/ Accept the supplications of the Theotokos who bore Thee,// and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

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 Great Martyr Barbara and our Venerable Father John of Damascus, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.