Reader’s Vespers on Holy Pascha

April 19th, 2020

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

Verse 1: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 2: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 3: So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Verse 4: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

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.

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Come let us worship God the Word, \* begotten of the Father before all ages, \* incarnate of the Virgin Mary; \* for having endured the Cross, He was handed over for burial, \* as He himself had willed, \* and having risen from the dead He hath saved me, \* the whole man, \*\* who hath gone astray.

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.

Christ our Savior, by nailing the record against us to the Cross \* hath blotted it out, \* and destroyed the might of death. \*\* We worship His Arising on the third day.

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

With the Archangels let us hymn the Resurrection of Christ; \* for He is the Redeemer and the Savior of our souls; \* and He is coming again \* with great glory and mighty power \*\* to judge the world which He hath fashioned.

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

An Angel proclaimed Thee, the crucified and buried Master, \* saying to the women; \* ‘Come, see where the Lord lay. \* For as He foretold, He hath arisen as all-powerful’. \* Therefore we worship Thee, the only Immortal One. \*\* O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy on us.

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

By thy Cross Thou hast destroyed the curse of the tree; \* by Thy burial Thou didst slay the might of death; \* by Thine Arising Thou hast enlightened mankind; \* wherefore we cry out to Thee; \* ‘O Christ, our God and Benefactor, \*\* glory be to Thee!’

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

The gates of death opened unto Thee in fear O Lord, \* and the gate-keepers of Hades were terrified at the sight of Thee, \* for Thou hast smashed the gates of brass, \* and crushed the bars of iron to powder, \* leading us out of the darkness and shadow of death \*\* rending asunder our bonds.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Singing a hymn of salvation, \* let this song rise from our lips; \* ‘O Come all ye people into the house of the Lord', \* let us fall down in worship saying; \* ‘O Thou who wast crucified upon the Tree, \* and didst rise from the dead and abidest in the bosom of the Father, \* have mercy upon us \*\* and cleanse us of our iniquities!’

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The shadow of the law hath passed now that grace hath come, \* for as the Bush wrapped in flame was not consumed, \* so didst thou bear a Child O Virgin \* and remained a Virgin; \* in place of a pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath dawned, \*\* instead of Moses, Christ is come, the salvation of our souls.

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 Great Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:: Who is so great a God as our God? \* Thou art God Who workest wonders

Verse 1: Thou hast made Thy power known among the peoples

Verse 2: And I said: Now have I made a beginning; this change hath been wrought by the right hand of the Most High.

Verse 3: I remembered the works of the Lord; for I will remember Thy wonders from the beginning.

Who is so great a God as our God? \* Thou art God Who workest wonders

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John:

At that time: it being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

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.

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:

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, \* hath enlightened the whole universe; \* and Thou hast called back Thine own creation. \*\* O All-powerful Lord, glory be to Thee!

In the 5th Tone:

Verse: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; \* Pascha new and holy, \* a Pascha mystical, \* a Pascha all-venerable! \* A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; \* a Pascha immaculate, \* a great Pascha; \* a Pascha of the faithful; \* a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; \*\* a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, \* and say ye unto Zion: \* Receive from us the good tidings \* of the Resurrection of Christ; \* adorn thyself, exult, \* and rejoice, O Jerusalem, \* for thou hast seen Christ the King, \*\* like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women \* in the deep dawn \* stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; \* they found an angel sitting upon the stone, \* and he, speaking to them, said thus: \* Why seek ye the Living among the dead? \*Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? \*\* Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, \* the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. \* Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. \* O Pascha! \* Ransom from sorrow, \* for from the tomb today, \* as from a bridal chamber, \* hath Christ shone forth, \* and hath filled the women with joy, saying: \*\* Proclaim unto the apostles.

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

It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant for the feast, \* and let us embrace one another. \* Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, \* let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, \* and thus let us cry out:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

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!

May Christ, risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life, our True God, through prayers of Holy Fathers and all the saints, have mercy on us. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life (3 times)

And unto us He has given eternal life; we worship His Resurrection on the third day!