

READERS VESPERS ON FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020
HOLY APOSTLE SIMON ZEALOTES

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (THRICE)

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: 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 forever 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. 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, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, 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; 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 ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

“O LORD I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE I

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.

- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
 - + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
 - + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
 - + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
 - + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
 - + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
 - + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.
- Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*
- Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*
- Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.*
- Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

From the Pentecostarion in Tone I

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

At the sixth hour the Well-spring of miracles * came to the well to capture the fruit of Eve, * for Eve at this same hour departed from Paradise * through the deceit of the serpent. * The Samaritan woman, therefore, drew nigh to draw water, * and the Savior, upon seeing her, said to her: * Give Me water to drink, and I shall fill thee with living water. * And running to the city, that prudent woman at once announced to the multitudes: ** Come, behold Christ the Lord, the Savior of our souls.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord. **Tone II:**

When the compassionate Lord came unto the well, * the Samaritan woman entreated Him, saying: * Grant me the water of faith, * and I shall receive the waters of the font of baptism unto rejoicing and redemption. ** O Giver of life, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

The co-beginningless and co-eternal Son and Word of the Father, * the Well-spring of healings, came to the well, * and a woman of Samaria came to draw water. * And when the Savior saw her, He said: * Give Me water to drink, and go, call thy husband. * But addressing Him as a man and not as God, * and being anxious to hide herself from Him, she said: I have no husband. * And the Teacher replied: Thou hast truly said, I have no husband; * for thou hast had five, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband. * And she, amazed by these words, hastened to the city * and cried out unto the multitudes, saying: ** Come, behold Christ, Who granteth the world great mercy.

From the Menaion in Tone IV

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

The wondrous Simon, * the glory of the apostles, * like a brilliant ray, hath passed over the ends of the earth, * driving away the darkness of polytheism * with his saving, brilliant and divine teachings, * enlightening all to worship the one Godhead * in three Hypostases, ** indivisible and undivided.

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

The apostle Simon, * going about the ends of the earth, * whirling about like a wheel, * hath burned away the madness of idolatry from all the land; * and, shedding the light of piety, * he hath kindled luminous rays of grace for the faithful, * that they may worship the one Godhead in three Hypostases, ** indivisible and Undivided.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

The apostle Simon, * most radiant and all-wondrous, * the teacher of the nations, * the net of God * drawing us up from the depths of perdition * with exalted theology, the true preacher, * hath now wisely led all to the knowledge of Christ ** and set forth his corrections as a beautiful banquet.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone VI***

By Jacob's Well, Jesus found the Samaritan woman. * He that covereth the earth with clouds asked water of her. * O wonder! He that rideth on the Cherubim speaketh with a harlot woman, * asking for water, * He Who hath suspended the earth upon the waters. * He Who causeth springs and pools of waters to flow forth seeketh water, * for He wished to draw to Himself her that was truly ensnared by the contending enemy, * and to impart the water of life unto her * who was sorely inflamed with unseemly deeds, ** for He alone is tenderly compassionate and the Lover of mankind.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. (Dogmatikon) **Tone IV***

Prophet David, the ancestor of God, * spoke of thee in psalmody unto Him who hath accomplished great things in thee. * For God was well pleased without father to become a man from thee, * the Queen who standeth at His right hand, * and He - the source of life - showed thee to be His mother, * that he might renew his own image, corrupted by the passions. * Having found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain * He hath laid it upon his shoulders, * that he may bring it to his Father; * and in accordance with his own will * unite it to the heavenly Powers * and thus, O Theotokos, save the world, ** Christ, who is richly and abundantly merciful.

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE VII:

O God, my helper art Thou, * and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

O God, my helper art Thou, * and Thy mercy shall go before me.

THE EVENING PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA - TONE IV:

Unceasingly worshiping Thy life-giving Cross, O Christ God, * we glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, * for through it, O All-powerful one, * Thou hast renewed corrupted human nature * and shown us the way to heaven, ** since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

*Verse: The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; * the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

By being willingly nailed to the tree of the Cross, O Savior, * Thou hast abolished the penalty of the tree of disobedience; * and by descending into Hades, O All-powerful one, * as God Thou hast torn asunder the bonds of death. * Wherefore we worship Thy Resurrection from the dead, and we cry out with joy: ** O All-powerful Lord, glory be to Thee.

*Verse: For He established the world * which shall not be shaken.*

Thou hast shattered the gates of Hades, O Lord, * and by Thy death Thou hast destroyed the dominion of death; * delivering mankind from corruption, * granting the world life, incorruption, ** and great mercy..

*Verse: Holiness becometh Thy house, * O Lord, unto length of days*

O Lord, by ascending the Cross * Thou hast wiped out our ancestral curse, * and by descending into Hades * Thou hast set free those enchained therein from all ages, * granting incorruption to mankind; * wherefore with hymns we glorify ** Thy life-giving and saving Arising.

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

Tone I

Thou, the Wisdom of God, * didst come unto the temple at Mid-feast, * teaching and reproving the disobedient Jews, * the Pharisees, and Scribes, * and with boldness didst Thou cry unto them: * He that thirsteth, let him come unto Me and drink living water, * and he shall never again thirst unto eternity. * From him that believeth in My goodness, * rivers of eternal life shall

pour forth from his noetic belly. * O how great is Thy goodness and compassion, ** O Christ our God! Glory be to Thee.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: 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 ages of ages. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, 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 ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, Who art in Heaven, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil one.

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL TROPARION, IN TONE IV:

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, * and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, * the women disciples of the Lord spake exultantly to the apostles: * 'Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, ** granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone III**

O holy Apostle Simon * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins ** unto our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone III**

We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, * O Virgin Theotokos; * for thy Son and our God, * accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh * He had received of thee, * hath delivered us from corruption, ** in that He is the Lover of mankind'

THE DISMISSAL FOR READERS VESPERS

Choir: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

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

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Choir: Amen.