

**Readers Vespers on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> , 2020**  
**FOREFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS / COMMEMORATION OF**  
**DEDICATION OF CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION AT JERUSALEM /**  
**HIEROMARTYR CORNELIUS THE CENTURION**

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

Choir: Amen.

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 IV**

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.*

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. **Tone 6** (for the Dedication of the Church at Jerusalem)*

Dedication is to be honored, decreed the Old Law;  
 even more should the New Law be honored through dedication;  
 for as Isaiah proclaims: “The islands are dedicated to God.”  
 By this we understand the Churches now built by the nations,  
 which receive a firm foundation from God.//  
 Therefore let us spiritually celebrate this present feast!

*v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Be dedicated anew, O people!  
 Putting away the old man, live in newness of life,  
 placing a bridle on everything from which death may come!  
 Let us chasten all our members,  
 hating every evil fruit of the tree!  
 Mindful of this, let us avoid our ancient errors,  
 that mankind may thus be restored!//  
 Thus this day of dedication is honored!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord **Tone 6** (by Anatolius)*

O Christ, the pre-eternal Word,  
 You set up Your Church as a tower of strength,  
 founding it upon the rock of the faith.  
 Therefore it abides in You unshaken forever,  
 For, without undergoing change, You became Man in these latter times for its sake.  
 Therefore we give thanks to You and praise You in hymns, saying:  
 “You are our King since before time began;//  
 now and forever — glory to You!”

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 4***

Beholding your good works and divine supplications, O Cornelius,  
 Christ sent to you a holy Angel,  
 who fully enlightened you;

then He sent the leader of the sacred Apostles  
who renewed you with water and the Spirit,  
together with all your household, O rightly glorious one,//  
teaching you sublime things through the grace of the Spirit.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*  
After you were anointed with the oil of the priesthood,  
you hastened to announce the preaching of salvation to all lands,  
uprooting the thorns of falsehood, O divinely-wise one,  
planting the true faith in men's souls through the Spirit.  
Therefore we bless you in gladness, O Cornelius,//  
as a God-pleasing hierarch and invincible martyr.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*  
The foolish ones, who were guided by the goodness of your  
character, became wise, O blessed one;  
for when you died and, according to the laws of nature, took up your  
dwelling in a tomb,  
you showed it to be a well-spring of many wonders, wise Cornelius,  
healing the sick and dispelling evil spirits//  
through the Holy Spirit, O divinely-inspired one.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6*  
Celebrating the memory of the dedication, O Lord,  
and glorifying You, the Giver of holiness,  
we ask that You hallow the senses of our souls,  
through the supplications of the glorious passion-bearers,//  
O good and almighty One!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*      **Tone 6** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)  
Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?  
Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?  
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,  
but from you He was ineffably incarnate.  
God by nature, He became Man for our sake,  
not divided into two persons but manifest as One in two natures.  
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//  
to have mercy on our souls

#### O GLADSOME LIGHT

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 in Tone V

Rejoice, O Life-bearing Cross,  
the invincible trophy of godliness,  
door to Paradise, firm support of the faithful,  
a wall that encompasses the Church!  
Through you corruption has been destroyed and abolished.  
The power of death has been swallowed up, and we are raised from earth  
to Heaven.  
You are a weapon that cannot be vanquished,  
the adversary of demons,  
the glory of the martyrs, the true adornment of saints,//  
and the haven of salvation//  
that grant the world great mercy.

*v: Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!*

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord,  
through which mankind has been delivered from the curse!  
You are a sign of true joy,  
you that shatter our enemies by your Elevation.  
O Cross, worthy of all honor,  
you are our help, You are the strength of kings.  
You are the power of the righteous.  
You are the majesty of priests.

All who sign themselves with you are freed from danger.  
O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended,  
you are a weapon of peace around which the Angels stand in fear.  
You are the divine glory of Christ, //  
Who grants the world great mercy.

*v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!*  
Rejoice, O guide of the blind,  
physician of the sick and resurrection of all the dead;  
you have raised us up when we were fallen into mortality, O precious Cross!  
Through you corruption has been destroyed,  
and incorruption has blossomed forth.  
We mortals have been deified, and the Devil is completely overthrown.  
Today, as we see you exalted by the hands of bishops,  
we exalt Him Who was lifted up upon you,  
and we fall down in worship before you, //  
drawing rich streams of great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 2*  
We glorify You, O Lord,  
as we celebrate the dedication of the most holy temple of Your Resurrection.  
You sanctified it and perfected it with Your all-perfect grace.  
You are adorned in it by the faithful  
with sacrifices that are sanctifying, mystical and holy,  
receiving them bloodless and all-pure from the hands of Your servants.  
To all those who rightly make offering, //  
You give great mercy and cleansing from sins.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 2*  
The Cross of the Giver of life,  
a divine treasure hidden in the ground,  
was shown in the heavens to the pious emperor,  
spiritually revealing a decree of victory over the enemy.  
Joyfully and divinely hastening to see it on high with faith and love,  
he zealously lifted it from the bosom of the earth, //  
for the deliverance of the world and the salvation of our souls.

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#### 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.

TROPARION in Tone IV

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your glory on earth to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.  
Through the prayers of the Theotokos,  
strengthen it for ever and ever  
and accept our supplication  
which we ceaselessly offer to You therein, //  
the life and resurrection of all!

**Tone 4 Troparion**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*  
By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
you became a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation,  
O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the  
Faith, even to the shedding of your blood.  
Hieromartyr Cornelius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

**Troparion**

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4*  
We offer in supplication  
the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord,  
which You have granted to us  
although we are unworthy.  
Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of mankind.

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.

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.

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