

Readers Vespers on Monday, November 30th, 2020
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYRS PLATO & ROMANUS

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

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 VIII

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 Menaion in Tone VIII

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

Full of valiant wisdom, * with a most courageous resolve thou didst endure * the severing of thy limbs * and the dismemberment of thy body, * unbearable fire, * starvation and death, * in expectation of the glory which ageth not, * which lieth eternally before thee, ** and foreseeing everlasting blessedness.

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.

Having transcended every sense * and directed thy mind * toward life on high, * with divinely wise thought * and great wisdom of soul * thou didst spurn the baseness and lowliness * of visible things. * Wherefore, lacerated and burned with fire for Christ, O martyr, ** thou didst endure valiantly.

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

Every assault of the enemy * and the onslaughts of the persecutors * didst thou set at naught by grace; * and wast crowned with the wreath of victory, * O thou who art most noetically rich, * being deemed worthy of incorruptible gladness * and ineffable and divine radiance. * And as thou art now in the midst thereof, ** ask remission of sins for those who praise thee as is meet.

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.

Consumed by fasting, * hardened by ascetic endeavor, * and tormented with manifold tortures, * thou didst become a two-edged sword, * cutting down hordes of demons, O Romanus, * thou adornment of spiritual athletes, * divine boast, * precious ornament of the Church ** of those who died shedding their own blood, O all-praised one.

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

Lacerated and rent asunder, * imprisoned in a dungeon, * thy tongue cut of, O glorious spiritual athlete, * thy jaw broken, * receiving a blessed end through violent suffocation, * thou wast shown to be * unshakable and steadfast * through the activity of the divine Spirit, O Romanus; ** wherefore, we praise thee with faith.

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

A child speaketh eloquently * and amazeth the mindless: * he is adorned with honorable opposition * and is illumined by his death; * he is enriched by the goodly fame of the holy spiritual athletes, * whose zeal he acquired. * O right wise Romanus, * pray thou with them, ** that remission of debts be sent down upon us all.

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

Awesome and most glorious are the victories of Thy martyr, O Lord! For, emulating the boldness of the fishermen, by his words and deeds he rent asunder the mythology and historical blasphemy of Plato with the nets of theology; and when his skin was flayed and his head severed, he choked the enemy with the outpouring of his blood. O all-blessed wonderworker Plato, thou adornment of the martyrs, who preached the great name of Christ with boldness, ask that great mercy be given our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen Tone VI

O most holy Virgin, show forth upon me, the wretched one, the depths of thy love for mankind, the abyss of thy tender compassion, and the countless compassions of thy goodness. Mow down the stubble of sin, granting me chastity, and preserve my body and soul undefiled, O thou who hast given birth to the Savior.

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 IV:

The Lord will hearken unto me * when I cry unto Him.

Verse: When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me.

The Lord will hearken unto me * when I cry unto Him.

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 VIII:

The angels unceasingly hymn Thee, the King and Master; and I fall down before Thee, crying like the publican: Cleanse me, O God, and have mercy upon me!

*Verse: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her Mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, * until He take pity on us.*

As thou art immortal, O my soul, let not the waves of life engulf thee, but rise up, crying out to thy Benefactor: Cleanse me, O God, and save me!

*Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them, that prosper, * and abasement on the proud.*

(Martyricon): O martyrs of the Lord, entreat ye our God, and ask for our souls a multitude of compassions and the cleansing of our many transgressions, we beseech you.

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

Tone VIII

Rejoice, thou praise of the universe! * Rejoice, temple of the Lord! * Rejoice, mountain overshadowed! * Rejoice, refuge of all! * Rejoice, golden candlestick! * Rejoice, honored glory of the Orthodox! * Rejoice, Mary, Mother of Christ God! * Rejoice, paradise! Rejoice, divine table! * Rejoice, tabernacle! Rejoice, golden jar! ** Rejoice, thou hope of all!

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:

In their sufferings, Thy martyrs O Lord, * received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * they set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By their supplications save Thou our souls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen **Tone IV**

LET US, THE SINFUL AND UNWORTHY, FLEE FERVENTLY TO THE THEOTOKOS!
LET US FALL DOWN IN REPENTANCE, CRYING FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR SOULS!
HELP US AND HAVE MERCY ON US, O LADY! HELP US, FOR WE ARE PERISHING
FROM OUR MANY SINS. DO NOT TURN AWAY YOUR POOR SERVANTS, FOR YOU
ARE OUR ONLY HOPE!

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. Amen.