

Readers Vespers on Monday, September 21st, 2020
AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ANCESTORS OF
GOD, JOACHIM & ANNA COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY
MARTYR SEVERIAN

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 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.

For the Feast in Tone I

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

Joachim and Anna hold festival, * having given birth to the only Theotokos, * the beginning of our salvation; * and with them we also celebrate today, * blessing the pure Virgin ** who sprang forth from the root of Jesse.

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.

Today the Theotokos hath sprung forth * from Anna as a flower, a divinely wrought garden, * the salvation of mankind; * and in His beneficence the Creator of all, * Who was born of her in a manner past understanding, ** washeth away all the defilement of Adam, in that He is good.

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

She who before was as a barren land * giveth birth to fertile ground, * and, having given forth a holy fruit from her fruitless womb, * she nurtureth her with milk. * O awesome wonder! * The nurturer of our Life, * who received the Bread of heaven in her womb ** is nourished with milk at her mother's breasts!

For the righteous ones 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.

Come, let us now join chorus with hymnody, * O ye who love the feasts of the Church, * and with faith let us hold festival, * honoring the memory of Joachim and Anna, the honored couple; * for they gave birth to the Mother of God for us, * the pure Virgin. * Wherefore, they have passed from transitory things over to that which is incorrupt, * to the mansions of everlasting life, * praying that we be saved.

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

Today all creation is adorned with gladness, * O all-hymned Theotokos, * offering up, with oneness of mind, the annual commemoration * of thy parents, * celebrating together * the wondrous Joachim and Anna; * for they have become the mediators of joy, * having past hope put thee forth, * the nurturer of our Life, * who hast caused the Light to shine forth.

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

Today Anna rejoiceth, leaping up in spirit, * and she is filled with joyful gladness, * having obtained her desire, * the fertility which she had long desired; * for she put forth the fruit of the promise and blessing, * the all-immaculate Mary * who gave birth to our God, * and given birth to the only Theotokos, the beginning of our salvation.

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

O blessed twain; ye have surpassed all parents, in that ye gave rise to her who transcendeth all creation. Truly blessed art thou, O Joachim, having become the father of such a maiden! And blessed is thy womb, O Anna, for thou hast put forth the Mother of our Life! Blessed are the breasts wherewith thou didst nourish with milk her who nurtured Him Who sustaineth every creation! Him do ye entreat, we beseech you, O all-blessed one, that our souls find mercy.

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 IN TONE II

Of a truth, the divinely wise Anna, beholding a nest of birds in a tree, was mindful of her own barrenness, and cried aloud: "Woe is me, O Lord! I alone, a sinner, am left bereft of fruitfulness by Thee, O Lord!" Then God, Who is the Lover of mankind, gave her the Virgin as fruit, the most precious of all creation.

*Verse 1. Hearken, O daughter, and see, * and incline thine ear*

Of a truth, the divinely wise Anna, conscious of her barren state and childlessness, cried out to God in supplication: "Loose Thou the grievous bond of my barrenness, that I may give birth to a child who will give birth to Thee, the Word!" And Thou didst grant her this, O Master Christ, Bestower of life; for her offspring gave birth to Thee, the Savior of all mankind.

*Verse 2. The rich among the people * will entreat thy countenance.*

God the Master truly hearkened to thy supplication, as He did that of Sarah of old, when thou didst hear the voice of the angel announcing joyous tidings unto thee: "Thou shalt give birth to the Mother of God!" And thou didst cry out in gladness of soul: "The Master and Lord, my God and Creator, hath of a truth lifted my reproach, for I shall give birth to the Ever-virgin!"

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

Joachim and Anna, the holy couple and holy mates, who from a barren womb put forth the holy Theotokos as a staff, from whom Christ God shone forth salvation upon the world, having been translated to the mansions of heaven, with their most pure Virgin daughter, join chorus with the angels, making supplication for the world. And we, assembling with them, say, piously chanting: O ye who were called the ancestors of Christ by the divine Maiden and most pure Mary, pray for our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Choir: 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 OF THE RIGHTEOUS ONES, IN TONE I:

Joachim and Anna, who were righteous in the law of grace, * have given birth for us unto a God-given babe. * Wherefore, the divine Church keepeth splendid festival today, * celebrating their honored memory with gladness, * glorifying God Who hath lifted up the horn of salvation for us ** in the house of David.

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

Thy nativity, O Virgin Theotokos, * hath proclaimed joy to all the world; * for from thee hath shone forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness, * Who, having annulled the curse, hath given His blessing, ** and having abolished death, hath granted us life everlasting.

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.