

Readers Vespers on Tuesday, September 15th, 2020
HOLY HIEROMARTYR ANTHIMUS, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA, AND OF OUR
VENERABLE FATHER THEOCTISTUS, FELLOW FASTER OF EUTHYMIUS THE
GREAT

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 St. Anthimus in Tone I

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

O divinely wise and blessed one, * with the dye of thy blood * thou hast brightened * thy sacred and divine vesture. * For piously thou hast gone from strength to strength * and from glory to glory. * And now do thou pray * that peace and great mercy ** be given to 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.

We Thou didst offer to God * the un-bloody sacrifice, * as a most lawful priest; * and later, as a most true martyr, * thou didst offer thyself * unto Christ with blood, * as an acceptable sacrifice and a whole burnt offering, * O divinely eloquent and most honored one. ** Him do thou entreat on behalf of those who hymn thee.

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

Legions of martyrs * didst thou lead to Christ, * O father Anthimus, * teaching and instructing by thy doctrines and instructions, * and manifestly presenting thyself * as an example, O divinely wise one. * With them do thou pray, * that peace and great mercy ** be given to our souls!

For St. Theoctistus in Tone VIII

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

O father Theoctistus, * thy radiant memory * doth gladden the assemblies of monks * by the beauties of thy life, * the riches of thy wonders, * and the splendors of thy gifts. * Entreat thou Christ, * that peace and great mercy ** be given to our souls.

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

O father Theoctistus, * the demons stood in awe * of thy patient abstinence, * and they were set at naught * by thine unceasing supplications, O all-praised one; * for thou didst acquire Christ as a companion. * Him do thou now beseech, * that peace and great mercy ** be given to our souls.

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

O father Theoctistus, * thou wast a dwelling place of God; * for, having preserved that which is in His image, * proclaiming the truth by thy life, * thou didst show forth the calling * of thy holy model, O most wondrous one. * Entreat thou Christ, * that peace and great mercy ** be granted to our souls.

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

Thou wast a most lawful priest even unto thine end, O blessed Anthimus; for, celebrating the divine and ineffable mysteries as a priest, thou didst shed thy blood for Christ God, bringing thyself to Him as a right acceptable sacrifice. Wherefore, as thou dost possess boldness before Him, earnestly pray for those who with faith and love keep Thy most honored memory, that they who honor it be delivered from all temptations, misfortunes and evil circumstances.

***Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen* **Tone VI** (Stavrotheotokion)**

Standing with the virginal disciple before the Tree * during the crucifixion, * the Virgin cried out, weeping: * "Woe is me! * How is it that Thou dost suffer, O Christ, ** since Thou art the dispassion of all?"

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 I:

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall pursue me * all the days of my life.

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell

Thy mercy, O Lord, shall pursue me * all the days of my life.

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 V:

O Lord, of old, in the time of Moses the Prophet, the image of Thy Cross, precisely revealed, vanquished Thine enemies; and now, possessed of that same Cross, we ask Thy help: Strengthen Thy Church, for the sake of Thy great mercy, O Lover of mankind!

*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!*

Though a tree visible by nature, Thy Cross, O Christ, is invested with divine power; and tangibly revealed to the world, it wondrously and noetically worketh our salvation. Bowing down before it, we glorify Thee, O Savior. Have mercy on us!

*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: Pray for us, O holy martyrs, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; for unto you hath been given the grace to make supplication on our behalf.

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

Tone VI

O venerable father, word of thy corrections hath gone forth into all the earth; wherefore, thou hast received the reward of thy labors in the heavens. Thou hast routed legions of demons and attained unto the ranks of the angels, whose life thou didst blamelessly emulate. As thou hast boldness before Christ God, ask peace for our souls.

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

Tone VI (Stavrotheotokion)

Beholding Thee crucified, O Christ, * she who gave birth to Thee cried aloud: * "What is this strange mystery which I see, O my Son? * How is it that Thou diest, * suspended in the flesh upon the Tree, ** O Bestower of life?"

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:

With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert, * and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst render thy labors fruitful an hundredfold, * becoming a beacon for the whole world, resplendent with miracles. ** O Pimen our father, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

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

With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert, * and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst render thy labors fruitful an hundredfold, * becoming a beacon for the whole world, resplendent with miracles. ** O Theoctistus our father, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved

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

LAMB, THE SHEPHERD AND SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, WHEN YOUR MOTHER SAW YOU HANGING ON THE CROSS, SHE CRIED: THOUGH THE WORLD REJOICES IN ITS REDEMPTION, MY BEING BURNS AS I BEHOLD YOUR CRUCIFIXION, WHICH YOU ENDURE FOR ALL MEN, MY SON AND MY GOD!

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.