

GREAT VESPERS

Saturday, May 2, 2020

SUNDAY OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

HIEROMARTYR BASIL, BISHOP OF AMASEA WITH VENERABLE GLAPHYRA
STEPHEN, BISHOP OF PERM • VENERABLE IOANIKIOS OF DEVITCH IN SERBIA

Priest:

Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Priest:

O Christ is risen from the dead, O Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

~ The troparion is now repeated twice by the faithful ~

PSALM 103

BLESS THE LORD, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment; Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain; Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters; Who maketh the clouds His chariot; Who walketh upon the wings of the wind; Who maketh His Angels spirits; His ministers a flaming fire; Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which Thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven

have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from His chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man, that he may bring forth food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which He hath planted, where the birds make their nests; as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all. The earth is full of Thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships; there is that leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon Thee; that Thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That Thou givest them they gather; Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest Thy face, they are troubled; Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth Thy spirit, they are created, and Thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever; the Lord shall rejoice in His works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth, He toucheth the hills, and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of Him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the Lord. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

THE KATHISMA

Blessed is the man, the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. *Alleluia.*

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. *Alleluia.*

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice, rejoice in Him with trembling. *Alleluia.*

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. *Alleluia.*

Arise, arise, O Lord; save me, O my God. *Alleluia.*

Salvation belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people. *Alleluia.*

THE GREAT LITANY

O LORD, I HAVE CRIED OUT

Second Tone

Psalm 140

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.

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.

Psalm 141

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.

of the Resurrection, from the Octoechos • Second Tone

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

Come ye, let us worship Him Who was born of the Father before all time, the Word of God, incarnate of the Virgin Mary; for He did submit to crucifixion by His own choice, was delivered to burial as He Himself willed, rose from the dead, and saved me, who was lost.

The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Verily, Christ our Saviour nailed to His Cross the handwriting of the decree, and did expunge it. And He abolished the might of Death. Let us therefore adore His third-day Resurrection.

Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

Come, let us with the Archangels praise the Resurrection of Christ; for He is the Redeemer and Saviour of our souls, and He it is Who will

come with fearful magnificence and glorious might to judge the world which He hath created.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

O Thou Who wast crucified and wast buried, the Angel did proclaim Thee, that Thou art the Master, saying to the women: Come ye and behold where the Lord was laid; for He is risen as He said; for He is the Almighty One, and therefore, do we worship Thee, O Thou Who alone art deathless; O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy upon us.

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

With Thy Cross Thou didst abolish the curse of the tree; with Thy death and burial Thou didst cause the might of Death to die; and with Thy Resurrection Thou didst enlighten mankind. Wherefore, do we cry to Thee, O Christ our God, the Benefactor, glory to Thee.

*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.*

O Lord, verily, the gates of Death were opened to Thee for fear of Thee. And as the gatekeepers of Hades saw Thee they did tremble; for Thou didst break asunder its brazen gates; didst crush its iron bars; didst bring us out from the shadow and darkness of death; and didst break our bonds asunder.

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

Come let us all sing with our mouths a song of salvation. Let us kneel down in the house of the Lord saying, O Thou Who wast crucified on a Tree, Who didst rise from the dead, and Who still remainest in the bosom of the Father, forgive us our sins.

of the Myrrh-bearing Women, from the Pentecostarion • Second Tone

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

Early, at dawn, the ointment-bearing women arose, and carrying ointments, came to the Lord's tomb. And not attaining their desire, the pious women pondered the removal of the stone, addressing one another and saying: Where are the seals of the grave? Where are Pilate's watchmen and the security of his great care? And lo, an Angel, radiant as lightning, proclaimed to them that of which they were ignorant, addressing them and saying: Why, wailing, seek ye the Living Who produceth life for mankind? Christ our God hath risen from the dead, since He is Almighty, bestowing on all, life, incorruptibility, illumination and the Great Mercy.

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

Why mingle tears with the ointment, O women Disciples? Behold, the stone hath been rolled away, and the sepulcher is empty. Behold corruption trodden under of Life, the seals bearing clear witness, the guards of the rebellious fast asleep, the dead saved by the body of God, and Hades mourning. Hasten with joy, and tell the Disciples that Christ, Who is First-born of the dead, Who caused Death to die, shall go before ye into Galilee.

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

The ointment-bearers, O Christ, rose up early and hastened to Thy tomb, seeking to anoint with oils Thine incorruptible body. But when the glad tidings were brought to them by the words of the Angel, with signs of joy they proclaimed to the Apostles that the Element of our salvation had risen, leading Death captive, and granting the world life eternal and the Great Mercy.

Doxastikon of the Myrrhbearing Women, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the Second Tone

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

The ointment-bearing women, O Saviour, came to Thy tomb; and when they beheld the seals, not finding Thy body, they hurried anxiously, wailing and saying: Who hath stolen our Hope? Who hath

taken away a naked, embalmed corpse, the only consolation to His Mother? Woe! How hath the dead-reviving One died? And how was He buried Who spoiled Hades? But arise Thou, by Thine own power after three days, as Thou didst say, and save our souls.

Doxastikon of the Resurrection, from the Octoechos • Second Tone

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

O Virgin, verily, the shadow of the law hath been annulled by the coming of thy grace; for as the bush was burning but not consumed, so didst thou give birth while yet a Virgin. And instead of the pillar of fire, the Sun of justice shone forth; and instead of Moses, Christ the Saviour of our souls.

ENTRANCE AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Gladsome Light of the holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in heaven, the holy, the blessed: O Jesus Christ. Lo, now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song, Son of God, Thou Giver of Life. Wherefore, the world glorifieth Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

The Lord is King, • and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

✠. The Lord is clothed with strength and hath girt Himself.

✠. For He established the world which shall never be moved.

✠. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

THE EVENING PRAYER

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night 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 commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy precepts.

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; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

THE PEACE

Priest:

Peace be to all.
And to thy spirit.

Deacon:

Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.
To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:

O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

THE APOSTICHA

of the Resurrection, from the Octoechos • Second Tone

Thy Resurrection, O Christ Saviour, hath illumined the whole universe. Thou hast renewed Thy creation. O Lord Almighty, glory to Thee.

Paschal Verses, from the Penetecostarion • Plagal of the First Tone

*Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered,
and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.*

Asacred Pascha hath been shown forth for us today, a new and holy Pascha, a mystic Pascha, an all-venerable Pascha, a Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer, a spotless Pascha, a great Pascha, a Pascha of the faithful, a Pascha that hath opened unto us the gates of Paradise, a Pascha that doth hallow all the faithful.

As smoke vanisheth, let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.

Come from that scene, O women, bearers of good tidings, and say to Sion: Receive from us the tidings of joy of the Resurrection of Christ. Exult, dance, and be glad, O Jerusalem, for thou hast seen Christ the King as a Bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

So, let sinners perish at the presence of God; and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women at deep dawn drew nigh to the tomb of the Giver of life. They found an angel sitting upon the stone, and he addressing them, in this manner didst say: “Why seek ye the Living among the dead? Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amidst corruption? Go, proclaim it unto His disciples!”

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

A Pascha of delight, Pascha, the Lord's Pascha; an all-venerable Pascha hath dawned for us; a Pascha whereon let us embrace one another with joy, O Pascha, ransom from sorrow! Today Christ hath shone forth from the tomb as from a bridal chamber, and hath filled the women with joy, saying: 'Proclaim it unto the Apostles.'

Doxastikon of Ss. Joseph & Nicodemus, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the First Tone

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Thou Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, when Joseph with Nicodemus took Thee down from the Tree and beheld Thee dead, naked and unburied, he struck up a compassionate dirge, and with mourning he said: Woe is me, O sweet Jesus! When but a short while ago the sun beheld Thee hanging upon the Cross, it shrouded itself in darkness, and the earth quaked with fear, and the veil of the Temple was rent asunder. And behold, now I see Thee willingly submitting unto death for my sake. How shall I bury Thee, O my God? Or how shall I wrap Thee with winding sheets? With what hands shall I touch Thine undefiled Body? Or what dirges shall I sing at Thy departure, O Compassionate One? I magnify Thy Passion; I praise Thy Burial and Resurrection, and I cry out: O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Doxastikon of Pascha, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the First Tone

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

This is the day of Resurrection; let us be radiant for the festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us say, 'O brethren!' even to those that hate us. Let us forgive all things on the Resurrection. And, thus, let us cry:

**O Christ is risen from the dead! O Christ is risen from the
dead, trampling down Death by death;
and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.**

HYMN OF ST. SIMEON

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

Apolytikion of the Resurrection, from the Octoechos • Second Tone

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of Joseph of Arimathaea, from the Pentecostarion • Second Tone

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

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting to the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Myrrhbearing Women, from the Pentecostarion • Second Tone

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

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting to the world Great Mercy.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon:
Wisdom!

Father, bless!

Priest:

Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

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

Priest:

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

Priest:

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy
(*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest:

MAY HE WHO ROSE FROM THE DEAD, Christ our true God,
through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blame-
less holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross;
by the protection of the honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the
supplication of the honourable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and
Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy,
glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bear-
ing Fathers; of Saint Ignatius the Godbearer of Antioch, the patron
and protector of this holy community; of the holy and righteous an-
cestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Pious Joseph of Arimathaea,
Righteous Nicodemus and the holy Myrrh-bearing Women; of the
Martyrs Timothy the reader and his wife Maura of Egypt; Peter, arch-

bishop of Argolis; Ekumenios, bishop of Trikala; Venerable Luke of Mt. Stirion; and Venerable Theodosios of the Kiev Caves, founder of Russian monasticism, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest:

O Christ is risen from the dead, O Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

...bestowing life!