

GREAT VESPERS

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES CONSTANTINE & HELEN

THURSDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

CONSTANTINE, PRINCE OF MUROM, AND HIS SONS MICHAEL

AND THEODORE, THE WONDERWORKERS

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 GREAT LITANY

O LORD, I HAVE CRIED OUT

Fourth 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. • The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me. • Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice. • Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

of Ss. Constantine & Helen, from the Menaion • Fourth Tone

If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

For with Thee there is forgiveness.

As a mighty weapon Thou hast given unto our Emperor Thy most honoured and precious Cross, by which he reigned on the earth righteously and justly, shining forth in piety; and Thy mercy hath vouchsafed to him the Kingdom of Heaven by Thy grace. With him, we all now glorify Thy man-befriending economy, O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Saviour of our souls.

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.

As a mighty weapon Thou hast given unto our Emperor Thy most honoured and precious Cross, by which he reigned on the earth righteously and justly, shining forth in piety; and Thy mercy hath vouchsafed to him the Kingdom of Heaven by Thy grace. With him, we all now glorify Thy man-befriending economy, O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Saviour of our souls.

From the morning watch until night,

from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Thou hast richly given to Thy pious servant, O Friend of man, David's meekness and gentleness, the wisdom of Solomon, and the Orthodoxy of Thy Twelve Apostles, since Thou art alone King of kings and

Lord of lords, Who dost govern all that is. On this account, we glorify Thy man-befriending economy, O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Saviour of our souls.

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

Thou hast richly given to Thy pious servant, O Friend of man, David's meekness and gentleness, the wisdom of Solomon, and the Orthodoxy of Thy Twelve Apostles, since Thou art alone King of kings and Lord of lords, Who dost govern all that is. On this account, we glorify Thy man-befriending economy, O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou divine Saviour of our souls.

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

Thou wast first to subjugate the sceptre unto Christ willingly, ever-memorable Emperor, perceiving Him to be God and the King of all things, He Who giveth victory, the Benefactor unto all, above all power and principality. O thou who lovest Christ, for this cause was thy kingdom made prosperous by Christ Jesus, the Friend of man, the divine Saviour of our souls.

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

Thou wast first to subjugate the sceptre unto Christ willingly, ever-memorable Emperor, perceiving Him to be God and the King of all things, He Who giveth victory, the Benefactor unto all, above all power and principality. O thou who lovest Christ, for this cause was thy kingdom made prosperous by Christ Jesus, the Friend of man, the divine Saviour of our souls.

Doxastikon of the Ss. Constantine & Helen, from the Menaion • Second Tone

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

O Constantine, the dear and magnified king, thou didst receive from God the riches of good gifts, whereby thou didst radiate in goodness; for having been illuminated through Baptism with the rays

of the most Holy Spirit, at the hands of Sylvester the Priest, thou didst appear unvanquished among kings, offering the inhabited world to thy Creator as a dower, as well as the God-loving reigning city. Wherefore, since thou hast attained favor, thou dost still beseech Christ God to grant to all those who celebrate thy memorial the forgiveness of sins and the Great Mercy.

Doxastikon of the Samaritan Woman, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the Second Tone

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

At Jacob's well, Jesus met the Samaritan woman. He Who screened the earth with clouds asked water of her. What wonder, that He Who rideth on the cherubim converseth with an adulterous woman. He asked water Who suspended the earth on the waters. He seeketh water Who caused the springs of water and their lakes to overflow. Yea, that He may draw to Him the truth ensnared by the contending enemy, and give her water to drink who was inflamed with ugly vices; for He alone is compassionate and the Lover of mankind.

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

**O God in Thy Name save me, • and in Thy strength
do Thou judge me.**

✠. O God, hearken unto my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth!

READINGS FROM THE PROPHETOLOGION

III Kings 8:22-23, 27-30

SOLOMON STOOD before the altar in the presence of all the congregation of Israel; and he spread out his hands toward heaven, and he said: Lord God of Israel, there is no God like Thee in Heaven above, and on the earth beneath. If the heaven and heaven of heaven will not suffice Thee, how much less even this house which I have built to Thy Name? Yet Thou shalt look upon my supplication, O Lord God of Israel, to hear the supplication and prayer which Thy servant prayeth to Thee in Thy presence this day, that Thine eyes may be open toward this house day and night, even toward the place whereof Thou didst say: My Name shall be there, to hear the prayer which Thy servant prayeth toward this place, day and night. And Thou shalt hearken to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, which they shall pray toward this place, and Thou shalt hear in Thy dwelling place in Heaven; and Thou shalt do, and be merciful.

Prophecy of Isaiah 61:10-62:5

LET MY SOUL REJOICE in the Lord; for He hath clothed me with the robe of salvation, and the garment of joy; He hath put a miter on me as on a bridegroom, and as a bride hath He adorned me with fair array. And as the earth putting forth her flowers, and as a garden its seed, so shall the Lord cause righteousness to spring forth, and exultation before all nations. For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until My righteousness go forth as light, and My salvation burn as a torch. And the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all the kings thy glory, and shall call thee by a new name, which the Lord shall name. And thou shalt be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. And thou shalt no more be called Forsaken; and thy land shall no more be called Desolate; for thou shalt be called My Favor, and thy land Inhabited; for the Lord shall take pleasure in thee, and thy land shall be inhabited. And as a young man liveth with a virgin, so shall thy sons dwell in thee; and it shall come to pass that as a bridegroom will rejoice over a bride, so will the Lord rejoice over thee.

Prophecy of Isaiah 60:1-16

SHINE, SHINE, O JERUSALEM, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and there shall be gross darkness on the nations; but the Lord shall appear upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And kings shall walk in thy light, and nations in thy brightness. Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold thy children gathered; all thy sons are come from far, and thy daughters shall be borne on men's shoulders. Then shalt thou see, and be glad, and fear, and be amazed in thy heart, for the wealth of the sea, and of nations and peoples, shall come round to thee; and herds of camels shall come to thee, and the camels of Madian and Gaepha shall cover thee; all from Saba shall come bearing gold, and shall bring frankincense and precious stones, and they shall proclaim the good tidings of the salvation of the Lord. And all the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered, and the rams of Nabaeoth shall come; and acceptable sacrifices shall be offered on Mine altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these that fly as clouds, and as doves with young ones? The isles have waited for Me, and the ships of Tharsis among the first, to bring thy children from afar, and their silver and their gold with them, for the sake of the holy Name of the Lord, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. And strangers shall build thy walls, and their kings shall wait upon thee; for by reason of My wrath I smote thee, and by reason of mercy I loved thee. And thy gates shall be opened continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; to bring in to thee the power of the nations, and their kings as captives. For the nations and the kings which will not serve thee shall perish; and those nations shall be made utterly desolate. And the glory of Lebanon shall come to thee, with the cypress, and pine, and cedar together, to glorify My holy place, and the place of My feet will I glorify. And the sons of them that humbled thee, and of them that provoked thee, shall come to thee in fear, and all they that provoked thee shall worship at the footsteps of thy feet; and thou shalt be called Zion, the city of the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, because thou art become forsaken and hated, and there was none to help thee. Therefore, I will make thee a perpetual gladness, a joy of generations of generations. And thou shalt suck the milk of the nations, and shalt eat the wealth of kings, and shalt know that I am the Lord that saveth thee and delivereth thee, the God of Israel.

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 Ss. Constantine & Helen, from the Menaion • Second Tone

Thou wast first of all the Christian kings to receive the scepter from God; for His saving sign, which was hid in the earth, was shown to thee, O blessed Constantine. By its might thou didst subjugate all nations and peoples underneath the Christians' feet, since thou didst truly have Christ's life-giving Cross as a weapon which no adverse power could conquer, and thereby thou also wast brought to our God.

*I have raised up one chosen out of My people. I have found David My servant;
with My holy oil have I anointed him.*

Verily most blessed is the womb and the hallowed belly that bare thee within, O venerable King, Constantine, thou God-crowned ruler whom the whole world loved; thou enricher and champion of orphans and widows, glory of the Romans, shelter of all humble men, joy of Christians, guardian of paupers, rescuer from straits and afflictions, and redeemer of those in captivity.

Wherefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness.

Smitten with desire and love for Christ, eagerly did Helen, the mother whence sprang the scion most sweet, haste to holy Sion till she found

the holy place where our Saviour was crucified, desiring to save us. And when through her diligence, she there had found the Cross and had raised it up with great longing, she rejoiced and cried aloud: Glory be to Him Who granted me mine ardent hope.

Doxastikon of Ss. Constantine & Helen, from the Menion • Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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

Like a brilliant ray, like the evening star, thou wast drawn away from faithlessness to faith in the Godhead, and wast privileged to sanctify a people and a city. And, having beheld the sign of the Cross in heaven, thou didst hear thence that with it thou shouldst conquer thine enemies. Wherefore, thou didst receive the knowledge of the Spirit and wast anointed a priest and king, establishing with mercy the Church of God, O father of Orthodox kings, whose font doth well forth with healing. Intercede, O Constantine, the Equal-of-the-Apostles, for the sake of our souls.

Doxastikon of the Samaritan Woman, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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

When by Thine ineffable dispensation Thou didst appear on earth, O Christ, the Samaritan woman, hearing Thy philanthropic words, left off drawing water at the well and hastened, saying to those in the city: Come and behold the Knower of hearts: perchance He may be the expected Christ Whose is the Great Mercy.

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.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection, from the Pentecostarion • Fourth Tone

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the Angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of Ss. Constantine & Helen, from the Menaion • Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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

Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and, like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings, Constantine, entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

Theotokion, from the Menaion • Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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

Thou Who for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O good One, and didst despoil Death through death, and as God didst reveal resurrection. Despise not those Whom Thou hast created with Thine own hand, show forth Thy love for mankind, O merciful One. Accept the intercessions of Thy mother, the Theotokos for us, and save Thy despairing people, O our Saviour.

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 FOR OUR SALVATION, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless 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-bearing Fathers; of Saint Ignatius the Godbearer of Antioch, the patron and protector of our holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and glorious Great-martyr Photeini, the Samaritan Woman; of the holy, glorious, God-crowned and great Sovereigns Constantine and Helen, the Equals to the Apostles; and Constantine, Prince of Murom, and his sons Michael and Theodore, the Wonderworkers, 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. **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!

...bestowing life!

