

GREAT VESPERS

Saturday, May 23, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

VENERABLE STYLITES SIMEON THE YOUNGER OF THE MOUNTAIN OF WONDERS
AND NIKITAS OF PEREYASLAVL-ZALESSKI • MARTYR MELETIOS THE GENERAL OF
GALATIA • VENERABLE VINCENT OF LERINS

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

Plagl of the First 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 Octoëchos • Plagal of the First Tone

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

With Thy noble Cross, O Christ, Thou hast put the devil to shame, and with Thy Resurrection Thou hast annihilated the thorn of Death. Thou hast saved us, too, from the gates of death. Wherefore, do we glorify Thee, O only begotten One.

The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

The Bestower of Resurrection to mankind was verily led like a lamb to slaughter. Therefore, the captains of Hades were terrified by Him, and its portals of agony were lifted; for Christ the King of glory hath entered it, saying to those in bonds, Come ye out! And to those in darkness, Be ye manifest!



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

The wonder is verily great; for the Creator of unseen creatures hath suffered in the flesh for His love of mankind; and the deathless One hath risen up. Come ye, therefore, O tribes of the nations, let us bow to Him in worship; for by His compassion have we been liberated from disobedience and have learned how to praise the one God in three Persons.

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

O Light that is not apprehended by eventide, we offer Thee evening worship; for Thou hast risen on the world at the completeness of time as in a mirror; and Thou didst descend to Hades and dissolved the darkness therein, revealing to the nations the light of the Resurrection. Wherefore, O Lord, Giver of light, glory to Thee.

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

For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Let us praise with words of glorification Christ, the Element of our salvation; for by His rising from the dead He hath saved the world from falsehood, and the ranks of Angels rejoiced; and the falsehood of demons hath vanished; and Adam rose up from the fall; and the authority of Diabolus was repudiated.

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.

When the guardian soldiers were appointed by the transgressors of the law, they were instructed by them to conceal the Resurrection of Christ; for they said to them: Take ye silver and say: Behold, when we were asleep the corpse was stolen from the tomb. But who hath ever seen or heard at any time that a corpse was stolen, especially if it were naked and embalmed, leaving its wrappings in the grave? Be ye not deceived, O Jews, but learn ye the sayings of the Prophets, and understand that this One in truth is the Saviour of the world, the omnipotent One.

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

O Lord, our Saviour, Who didst lead Hades captive and didst trample down Death, and didst light the world with Thy precious Cross, have mercy upon us.

of the Sunday of the Blind Man, 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.*

To himself did the blind man think and say: Is it, I wonder, for the sin of my parents that I was born without eyes? Have I become an example because of the faithlessness of the Gentiles? I cease not from asking: When is the night, when is the day? My feet have no more strength from the impact of the stones; for I have never seen the sun shining, nor have I seen my Creator in any form whatsoever. Albeit, I beseech Thee, O Christ God, to look upon me and have mercy upon me.

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

To himself did the blind man think and say: Is it, I wonder, for the sin of my parents that I was born without eyes? Have I become an example because of the faithlessness of the Gentiles? I cease not from asking: When is the night, when is the day? My feet have no more strength from the impact of the stones; for I have never seen the sun shining, nor have I seen my Creator in any form whatsoever. Albeit, I beseech Thee, O Christ God, to look upon me and have mercy upon me.

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

Passing through the Temple, Jesus saw a man blind from his birth. He had compassion on him and put clay on his eyes, then said to him: Go to the pool of Siloam and wash. And as he washed his sight was restored, and he declared the glorification of God. But his relatives said unto him: Who opened thine eyes whom none that see could heal?

And he answered them, crying: A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, and now I see. He is in truth Christ the Messiah, of whom Moses wrote in the law. He is the Savior of our souls.

Doxastikon of the Sunday of the Blind Man, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the First Tone

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

Passing by, O Lord, Thou didst find a man blind from birth. The Disciples, in surprise, asked Thee: Teacher, who did sin, this man or his parents that he was born blind? But Thou, O Saviour, answered them, saying: Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent Me, which none else can work. And as Thou said that, Thou didst spit on the ground, and make clay thereof, and anoint his eyes. And Thou didst say unto him: Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. And when he washed, he began to shout unto Thee: Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Thee. Wherefore, we too, cry out to Thee: have mercy upon us.

Theotokion of the Resurrection, from the Octoëchos • Plagal of the First Tone

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

The sign of the virgin bride who knew not wedlock was at one time revealed in the Red Sea; for there Moses did cleave the waters, and there Gabriel was the minister of a miracle. At that time Israel crossed the deep and their feet were not wet, and now the Virgin hath given birth to Christ without seed. The sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel, and the blameless one remained incorruptible after giving birth to Emmanuel. Therefore, O eternal God, Who wast before eternity, and Who didst appear as man, have mercy upon us.

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 shaken.

✠. 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 • Plagal of the First Tone

O Christ Saviour, Who didst become incarnate without leaving heaven, Thee do we magnify with the voices of song; for Thou didst accept the Cross and death for the sake of our human race; for Thou art the Lord, the Lover of mankind. Thou didst demolish the gates of Hades, rising on the third day, and saving our souls.

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.*

A sacred 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 the Sunday of the Blind Man, from the Pentecostarion • Plagal of the Fourth Tone

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

O Christ God, noetic Sun of justice, O Thou, Who by Thy pure touch, didst lighten the eyes of him who was born lightless from his mother’s womb, lighten Thou our souls’ eyes, and reveal us as sons of the day, that we may cry out unto Thee in faith: Bountiful is Thy compassion toward us, O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee.

Doxastikon of Holy 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 Octoëchos • Plagal of First Tone

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Theotokion of the Resurrection, from the Octoëchos • Plagal of the First Tone

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

Rejoice, O uncrossed gate; rejoice, O wall and protection of those who hasten unto thee; rejoice, O quiet haven, who hast not known wedlock, O thou who hast given birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God. Thou shalt continue to intercede for the sake of those who praise and worship thy birth-giving.

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 this holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Venerable Stylites Simeon the Younger of the Mountain of Wonders and Nikitas of Pereyaslavl-Zaleski; Martyr Meletios the General of Galatia; and Venerable Vincent of Lerins, 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!

