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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021
(Eve of 18th Sunday after Pentecost)

The Holy Great-martyr Arethas (al-Haarith) & His Companions in Arabia

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

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 One, 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 the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

Reader: 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 for ever 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. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour 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, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, 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, and 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. *(Twice)*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIRST STASIS OF FIRST KATHISMA

Psalm 1

Reader: Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the pestilent. But his will is rather in the law of the Lord, and in His law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like the tree which is planted by the streams of the waters, which shall bring forth its fruit in its season; and its leaf shall not fall, and all things whatsoever he may do shall prosper. Not so are the ungodly, not so; but rather they are like the chaff which the wind doth hurl away from the face of the earth. For this reason shall the ungodly not stand up in judgement, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 2

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

Psalm 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Stasis

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. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

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.

For the Resurrection in Tone One

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

Accept our evening prayers, O Holy Lord. Grant us forgiveness of our sins; for Thou alone hast made manifest the Resurrection unto the world.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Encompass Zion, O ye people, and surround it; give ye glory therein to Him Who arose from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered us from our transgressions.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

O come, ye people, let us praise Christ and bow down before Him, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered the world from the wiles of the enemy.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Rejoice, O ye heavens; sound the trumpets, ye foundations of the earth; thunder forth gladness, O ye mountains; for behold, Emmanuel hath nailed to the Cross our sins; and the Giver of Life hath slain death, raising up Adam; for He is the Lover of mankind.

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

He Who was willingly crucified in the flesh for our sake; Who didst suffer and was buried, and arose again from the dead: let us praise, saying, O Christ: confirm Thy Church in Orthodoxy, and make peaceful our lives; for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

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.

Standing before Thy life-giving tomb, we, though unworthy, offer glory to Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God; for Thou didst accept the Cross and death, O sinless One, that Thou mightest grant Resurrection to the world; for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

For St. Arethas in Tone One (**O all-lauded Martyrs**)

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

In setting thy bravery against * the brute fierceness of the Jews, O all-famed Martyr Arethas, with the help of grace divine * thou didst gain the vict'ry * and thou broughtest unto Christ * a choir of noble Martyrs enlisted in His Name, O glorious one, * which was formed of every age of man * and united * those of every state and rank.

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

In setting thy bravery against * the brute fierceness of the Jews, O all-famed Martyr Arethas, with the help of grace divine * thou didst gain the vict'ry * and thou broughtest unto Christ * a choir of noble Martyrs enlisted in His Name, O glorious one, * which was formed of every age of man * and united * those of every state and rank.

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

O all-praised Arethas, thou didst bring * thy most sacred fellow Martyrs all together to form one great delightful choir, with whom * thou hast fought the good fight * and hast finished well the course * of thine exceeding manful contentions in the pains of martyrdom. * Intercede with Jesus Christ our Lord * that He grant peace * and great mercy to our souls.

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

The young virgin maidens were aflame * with divine desire for Christ, and they forgot the infirmity of nature utterly; * manifestly strengthened * with the mighty pow'r of God, * they trampled down the enemy's error and were not afraid at all * of the painful torments, nor the fire * of the furnace, * which they braved with noble zeal.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. ARETHAS IN TONE FOUR

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

On this day, with one accord let us the faithful honour with songs the most glorious chief shepherd Arethas and his companions; for he convicted a transgressing king and shed his own blood in confession of Christ. Wherefore, a fiery cloud scorched the face of the earth, rebuking the ungodliness of the transgressors. O Christ God, Who gavest strength to Thy trophy-bearers that they might glorify Thee, by the intercessions of Thy Saints, do Thou, as the Master of all, save us also from temptations and afflictions.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE ONE

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

Let us sing the praises of Mary the Virgin, Door of Heaven, glory of all the world, sprung forth from man, who also didst bear the Lord; the song of the bodiless powers, and the enriching of the faithful; for she revealed herself as Heaven and the Temple of the Godhead. She destroyed the bulwarks of enmity and ushered in peace and did throw open the Kingdom. Wherefore, in that we possess this confirmation of our Faith, we have a defender, even the Lord Who was born of her. Be bold, therefore, be bold, ye people of God, for He, the All-powerful, will vanquish all your enemies.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Choir: 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.

SATURDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Leader: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (*twice*)

Verse: The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself;

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

Verse: For He established the world which shall not be shaken

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

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

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

AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

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

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: 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.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

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

APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE ONE

By Thy passion, O Christ, we have been set free from sufferings; and by Thy Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 1. *The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Let creation rejoice; let the heavens cheer; let the nations clap their hands for joy; for Christ our Savior to the Cross hath nailed our sins; and having slain death and raised up Adam, the progenitor of mankind, hath granted us life, for He loveth mankind.

Verse 2. *For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*

King of heaven and earth, O inscrutable Creator, Thou Who, for love of mankind, wast of Thy free-will crucified. Having met Thee below, Hades was vexed while the souls of the righteous on receiving Thee were gladdened; and Adam seeing Thee, the Creator, in the nethermost parts rose again. O wonder! How the Life of all hath tasted death by His own will, to enlighten the world that crieth, saying: O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 3. *Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*

Thy myrrh-bearing women, carrying spices, with haste and moaning reached Thy sepulcher; but not finding Thine all-pure body, and from the angel, having heard of the new and most glorious miracle, said to the Apostles: Risen is the Lord Who granteth unto the world the Great Mercy.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. ARETHAS & COMPANIONS IN TONE EIGHT

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

Knowing from aforetime the evil and faithless and foul purpose of the Jews, ye contended in martyrdom for Christ with boldness of spirit. As of old, in the time of the Law, when in the wilderness they provoked Him that saved them from Egypt, and they condemned Him to the Cross, so also now in you have they surpassed their word by their deed; and waxing zealous in their faithlessness, they condemned you to the fire. But with one mind, ye strove bravely with endurance in your contest, and proved awesome among the Martyrs. Since ye have boldness with God, pray that our souls be delivered from their many offenses.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE EIGHT

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

O Virgin without groom, blameless one, Mother of the high God; O thou who didst conceive in the flesh in an inexplicable way, receive the petitions of thy servants, O thou who bestowest on all the purification of sins; and in receiving our petitions beseech thou Him for the salvation of us all.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Leader: 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 One, 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 the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ARETHAS IN TONE ONE

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

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Friend of man.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION IN TONE ONE

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

As Gabriel cried aloud unto thee, "Hail, O Virgin," with that cry did the Lord of all become incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake the righteous David; and Thou wast revealed as more spacious than the heavens, in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore, glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to Him Who came from thee; glory to Him, Who through thy birth-giving hath set us free.

THE DISMISSAL

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

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.

The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:

Leader: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

All: 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

Leader: O Thou Who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Arethas (al-Haarith) and those with him in Arabia; Martyr Sebastiana of Heraclea; and righteous Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia, whose memory we celebrate today. and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

All: Amen.