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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

(Eve of 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

*The After-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*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 SIX**

*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 Six

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

O Christ, Possessor of victory over Hades, Thou hast ascended the Cross that Thou mightest raise with Thee those who sit in darkness. O Free among the dead, overflowing with life from Thine own light. O Almighty Savior, have mercy upon us.

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

Today hath Christ trodden down death, and hath risen as He said. He hath given joy to the world that we might all shout in praise, O Fountain of life, O unapproachable Light, and Almighty Savior, have mercy upon us.

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

O Lord, Who art in all creation, whither shall we sinners flee from Thee? To heaven? For Thou dwellest there; or to Hades? For there Thou art the Trampler over death, or to the depths of the sea? For there is Thy hand, O Master. In Thee, therefore, seek we refuge, and Thee do we worship beseechingly; O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy upon us.

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

In Thy Cross, O Christ do we glory, and Thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and beside Thee we know no other.

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

The Lord we bless always, and praise His Resurrection; for in submitting to crucifixion for our sakes, He hath shattered death by Death.

*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.*

Glory to Thy might, O Lord; for Thou hast put a stop to the possessor of the might of death, and hast renewed us by Thy Cross, bestowing on us life and incorruptibility.

For the Holy Cross in Tone Four (\*\*Unto them that fear Thee\*\*)

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

Gleaming like the sun, Thy precious Cross hath brightly shone forth today \* at the Place of the Skull, O Christ, \* set fast on that blessed ground \* glorified of all men; \* and being exalted on this all-holy mount of Thine, \* it indicateth most plainly unto all \* that by Thy Cross, O Savior, Thou hast raised our nature to Heaven's heights, \* as the merciful Friend of man, \* O Almighty and Sovereign Lord.

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

Gleaming like the sun, Thy precious Cross hath brightly shone forth today \* at the Place of the Skull, O Christ, \* set fast on that blessed ground \* glorified of all men; \* and being exalted on this all-holy mount of Thine, \* it indicateth most plainly unto all \* that by Thy Cross, O Savior, Thou hast raised our nature to Heaven's heights, \* as the merciful Friend of man, \* O Almighty and Sovereign Lord.

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

On this day the Heavens have declared Thy glory to all mankind, \* Thou Whom no mind can comprehend; \* for brilliantly hath the sign \* of Thy Cross now flashed forth \* with light unapproachable and reproved the frenzied mind \* and stiff-necked ways of them that put God to death. \* For this cause we now glorify Thy man-befriending economy, \* O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, \* Thou divine Savior of our souls.

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

Thine all-holy Cross, the battle-trophy all-indestructible, \* brought to light from the depths of earth, \* proceedeth forth on this day \* like a hidden treasure, \* making the whole world rich with the exceedingly bright rays \* of its transcendent and universal good. \* For this cause we now glorify Thy man-befriending economy, \* O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, \* Thou divine Savior of our souls.

#### DOXASTICON FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR

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

When Moses, O Christ, foreshadowed the effect of Thy precious Cross, he defeated the stubborn Amalek in the wilderness of Sinai; for when he lifted his hands, making the sign of the cross, the people prevailed. But now things have attained their perfection in us. Today, as the Cross is elevated, evil spirits are driven away; today the whole creation is delivered from corruption; for by the Cross all gifts have shone forth upon us. Wherefore, we all kneel to thee, saying with joy: How great are Thy works, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE SIX

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

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travail and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

#### 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 SIX

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in Heaven praise. Make us, who also are on earth, worthy to praise Thee with a pure heart.

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

Thou hast demolished the brazen gates of Hades and crushed its bars; for Thou art an Almighty God, and didst raise fallen mankind. Wherefore, do we cry to Thee in unison, O Thou who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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

Christ God, when He wished to raise us from the old fall, was nailed on the Cross and placed in a grave. He it was Whom the ointment-bearing women did seek, wailing with tears, and saying: Woe to us, Savior of all, how didst Thou consent to occupy a grave? And after Thy lying therein willingly, how wast Thou stolen? How wast Thou removed? And what place screened Thy life-bearing body? Yea, appear to us, O Lord, as Thou didst promise us, and put a stop to the shedding

of tears. And as they wailed, behold an angel shouted to them, saying, Cease wailing, and say to the Apostles that the Lord is risen, granting the world forgiveness and Great Mercy.

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

O Christ God, Thou wast crucified as Thou willed, Thou ledest death captive, and arose in glory on the third day, for Thou art God, granting the world eternal life and Great Mercy.

#### DOXASTICON FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE EIGHT

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

Thy precious Cross, which Moses prefigured in himself of old, defeated Amalek and put him to flight; and David the sweet-singer cried out commanding that it be worshipped as Thy footstool. As we sinners worship it with unworthy lips today, O Christ God, we praise Thee Who didst deign to be nailed thereon and we cry to Thee: O Lord, with the thief, count us worthy of Thy Kingdom.

#### 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 SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

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

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserve Thy community.

## 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; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross—the Exaltation of which we now celebrate; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the Holy Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope; Martyr Agathokleia; Hieromartyrs Heracleides and Myron, Bishops of Tamasus in Cyprus; Venerable Anastasios Peristeron of Cyprus; and Euxiphios of Cyprus, the bishop, 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.