

Readers Vespers

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Prophet Zephaniah



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

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Prophet Zephaniah

At the appointed time we begin:

O God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me (3).

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

O Heavenly King, the comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the 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.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. (Amen.)

Lord have mercy (12) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King! (metania)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! (metania)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself our King and our God! (metania)

Psalm 104

Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you have become exceedingly glorious; you are clothed with majesty and honor. You clothe yourself with light as with a garment, and spread out the heavens like a curtain. You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters, and make the clouds your chariot, and walk upon the wings of the wind. You make winds your messengers, and flames of fire your ministers. You laid the foundations of the earth, that it never should move at any time. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stand above the hills. At your rebuke they fled; at the voice of your thunder they hastened away. They went up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath, even to the place you had appointed for them. You have set bounds for them which they shall not pass; neither shall they again cover the earth. You send the springs into the rivers, which run among the hills. All beasts of the field drink thereof, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them shall the birds of the air have their habitation and sing among the branches. You water the hills from above; the earth is filled with the fruit of your works. You bring forth grass for the cattle, and plants for the service of mankind, That they may bring food out of the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart, and oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart. The trees of the LORD also are full of sap, even the cedars of Lebanon which he planted, Wherein the birds make their nests, and the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats, and so are the stony cliffs for the rock badgers. You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows its going down. You make darkness that it may be night, in which all the beasts of the forest move. The lions, roaring after their prey, seek their meat from God. The

sun arises, and they go away together, and lay themselves down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work, and to his labor until the evening. O LORD, how manifold are your works; in wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. So is the great and wide sea also, in which are things creeping innumerable, creatures both small and great. There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan, whom you made to take its pleasure therein. These all wait upon you, that you may give them food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it, and when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die, and are turned again to their dust. When you let your breath go forth, they shall be made, and you shall renew the face of the earth. The glorious majesty of the LORD shall endure for ever; the LORD shall rejoice in his works. He looks at the earth and it trembles; if he even touches the hills, they shall smoke. I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being, And so shall my words please him; my joy shall be in the LORD. As for sinners, they shall perish from the earth, and the ungodly shall come to an end. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3)

Great Litany

The regular petitions are not intoned, instead:

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. (Amen.)

Lord, I Call

(Tone 8) Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord! Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!

6. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee.

O Lord, Thou hast enlightened Thine apostles with the beams of the Comforter, also setting them as beacons unto the confirmation of the faith, with the noetic radiance of the knowledge of Thee, O Master: for which sake, we bow down before Thine ineffable love for mankind.

5. For thy name's sake have I patiently waited for thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for thy word: My soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O Lord, at the prayers of Thine apostles, Thou hast protected this, Thy flock, preserving it, unharmed, from the temptations of the foe: for Thou hast redeemed it, with Thine honourable blood, from slavery-to-the-enemy, in that Thou art the compassionate One, and the lover of mankind.

4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch: Let Israel hope in the Lord.

Ye were shewn, together, set in the foundation of the Church, like unto precious stones, with radiant brilliance, shining forth the knowledge of God upon the inhabited world, O divine apostles, which stand before the Trinity, and are they that pray for our souls.

3. For with the Lord, there is mercy; and, with Him, is plenteous redemption: And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

(Tone 4 - Prophet Zephaniah) As a godly prophet, herald, and proclaimer, of the words of God, receiving the radiance of the Godhead's splendour, in purity of mind, thou wast shewn to be the godly-inspired mouth of the Spirit: having proclaimed the things shewn to thee, by Him, and telling all the nations of the salvation that is given to men, and of the Kingdom of Christ, O all-honoured one; O pray to Him that He may save and enlighten our souls.

2. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: Praise Him, all ye people.

Thou that, fittingly, shinest forth in the vision of God, O godly-inspired one, honoured with grace and a chief place among the prophets, and vouchsafed the blessings of God, possessed, now, with boldness towards the all-good One, and sympathy for us, never cease to pray for them that praise thee in faith, and

honour thee as one having the eloquence of God, honourable and pleasing to Him, that He may deliver us from misfortunes, and save our souls.

1. For His merciful kindness is great towards us: And the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Thou hast revealed Thy prophet to be a living cloud, O immortal One, pouring forth water unto life that is truly eternal, richly, sending him forth, and giving him the all-holy Spirit, consubstantial with Thee, the almighty Father, and with Thy Son, who shone forth from Thine essence, whereby, he prophesied the saving coming of Christ our God, and proclaimed salvation to all the nations.

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

(Tone 4) In that I have fallen into the abyss of many offences, wretch that I am, because of my slothfulness, despondency, and ignorance, I am, now, held fast by despair: be thou my help and purification, and my salvation, O most-pure one, readily granting me consolation; I pray to thee, and implore, and fall down before thee, and, with faith, cry out to thee, that I not appear, at the end, to be the delight of the deceiver.

Wisdom! Let us attend!

Gladsome Light

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed, O Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise O Son of God, and Giver of Life. Therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!

Evening Prokeimenon

Wisdom! Let us Attend! The Prokeimenon in the 5th tone: Save me, O God, by Thy name and judge me by Thy strength!

Verse: Hear my prayer, O God, hearken to the words of my mouth!

Vouchsafe, O Lord

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 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 regular petitions are not intoned, instead:

Lord, have mercy! (12) Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. (Amen.)

Aposticha

(Tone 8) O Lord, the apostles, heartily loving Thee on earth, considered all but dung, that Thee alone they might acquire, and, for Thee, gave over their bodies to wounds: for which sake, they are glorified, and pray for our souls.

*Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; even so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God: * Until He have mercy upon us.*

O Lord, Thou hast magnified the memory of the apostles on earth: for we all, assembling together therein, glorify Thee: for Thou grantest us, for their sake, healings, and peace to the whole world at their prayers, and great mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. Our soul is exceedingly filled with humiliation; let reproach come upon the wealthy: abasement on the proud.

If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, rightly are these things ascribed to the saints: they bowed their necks beneath the sword, for Thy sake, Who hast bowed the heavens, and come down: they shed their blood for Thee, Who hast emptied Thyself, and taken the form of a servant: they humbled themselves even unto death, following the example of Thy poverty: at their prayers, have mercy upon us, O God, according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies.

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

(Tone 8) I, O holy Virgin Theotokos, flee to thy protection: for I know that, through thee, I shall obtain salvation; for thou art able, O pure one, to help me.

St. Symeon's Prayer

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 enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

Trisagion (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the 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.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. (Amen.)

Troparia

(Tone 2) Celebrating the memory of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord: through him, we pray Thee, save our souls.

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

(Tone 2) Through thee, ever-virgin Theotokos, we have become partakers of the divine nature; for thou gavest birth to the Incarnate God for our sake. Therefore, we all devoutly magnify thee.

Dismissal

Wisdom! Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Preserve O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us! More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God, and our only sure hope, glory to Thee!

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

Lord have Mercy (3)

Lord Bless.

May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the patron of this holy house, **of the Prophet Zephaniah**, who we commemorate today, of all those Saints who have shone forth in this North American land, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loves mankind. Amen.

Heavenly Father...

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers at the Divine Liturgy for the Health of the Servants of God:

Metropolitan Herman

Igumen David Lewis

Archpriests: Thomas Edwards, John Perich, Rodion Pfeifer, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic

Priests: Matthew Joyner, Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

Matushki: Ashley Joyner, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Helen Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, David Gowarty, Patricia Grammes, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Pauline Kasick, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Olga Maksimova, Peter Marsh, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Mary Orzolek, Kylie Pinho, Ryan Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Cate Shea, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witanek

Child of God: Emily Estrin

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.