

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Vespers



February 25, 2007

**Saint John *the Baptist*
Orthodox Church**

Rochester, New York

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages!

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Come, let us worship God our King!

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

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

Come, let us worship before Him!

CHOIR: Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Blessed art Thou, O Lord!
{and the rest of Psalm 104}

PRIEST: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For the peace of God from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For peace throughout the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For this holy house and all those who enter here with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For His Beatitude, Metropolitan +Herman; for all Orthodox Patriarchs, Metropolitan, Archbishops and Bishops; for the honorable priests, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For the President of our country, the members of the Supreme Court, those serving in Congress, those who work in the government, all those in public service, the men and women serving in our armed forces and their families, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For this city in which we dwell, for every village, town, city, and the countryside, and for the faithful people of God who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For seasonable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For travelers by land, sea, air, and in space; for the sick, the suffering, the captives, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady ~ the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary ~ with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For to You belongs all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

CHOIR: Lord, I call upon Thee hear me!
{Psalm 142}

READER: Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

CHOIR: I want to wash away with tears the record of my sins, O Lord . . .

READER: If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

CHOIR: If a man takes refuge from the tempest in this harbor, will he not be saved? . . .

READER: For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord.
My soul has waited for Thy word, my soul has hoped on the Lord.

CHOIR: Wash me with my tears, O Savior . . .

READER: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord.

CHOIR: I am a sheep of Thy spiritual flock . . .

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

CHOIR: Grant me reverence, separation from evil, and perfect obedience . . .

READER: Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

CHOIR: When Moses was purified by fasting . . .

READER: For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

CHOIR: Let us now set out with joy upon the second week of the Fast . . .

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

CHOIR: Exalted above the ranks of angels . . .

PRIEST: *Blessed is the entrance of Your saints into Your Holy Sanctuary, always now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Wisdom! Let us attend!

CHOIR: O Gladsome Light . . .

PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all! Wisdom!
The evening Prokeimenon in the eighth tone:
Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord, to them
that fear Thy Name.

CHOIR: Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord, to them
that fear Thy Name.

PRIEST: From the ends of the earth have I cried to Thee!

CHOIR: Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord, to them
that fear Thy Name.

PRIEST: I will take refuge under the shadow of Thy
wings.

CHOIR: Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord, to them
that fear Thy Name.

PRIEST: So I will sing praises unto Thy Name forever.

CHOIR: Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord, to them
that fear Thy Name.

PRIEST: Thou hast given an inheritance, O Lord!

CHOIR: To them that fear Thy Name!

READER: 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 Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. 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 endures forever, O Lord! Do not despise the works of Thy hands! To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song. To Thee is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: That this evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: All things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: A Christian ending to our life ~ painless, blameless, and peaceful ~ and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant it, O Lord.

PRIEST: Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady ~ the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary ~ with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For You are a good God and the lover of the human race, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PRIEST: Peace be unto all!

CHOIR: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord our God, You bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon us, Your servants and Your inheritance, for to You ~ the awesome Judge who loves mankind ~ have we bowed our heads and bent our necks, not expecting help from others, but hoping in Your mercy and looking for Your salvation. Protect us at all times, especially in this present evening and throughout the coming night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, from vain thoughts, and from evil imaginations. **Blessed and most glorified is the majesty of Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.**

CHOIR: Amen.

CHOIR: {the Apostikha}

Come, let us cleanse ourselves with mercy and help for the poor . . .

O holy martyrs of the Lord . . .

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

O all-pure Mother, you are full of grace . . .

The Procession of Holy Icons

the choir sings the Troparion

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One,
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.
Of Your own will You were pleased
to ascend the Cross in the flesh
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy.
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:
You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,
by coming to save the world.

The Synodikon

of the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea (787 AD)

**ALL: As the prophets beheld! As the apostles
have taught! As the Church has received! As the
teachers have declared! As the world has agreed!
As grace has shown forth! As truth has been
revealed! As falsehood has been dispelled! As
wisdom has become manifest! As Christ awarded!**

**Thus we declare and affirm as we proclaim Christ
our true God, and honor His saints in words,
writings, thoughts, sacrifices, churches, and holy
icons; on the one hand, worshiping and reverencing
Christ as God and Lord, and on the other hand,
honoring the saints as true servants of the same Lord
of all, and offering them proper veneration.**

**Believing in one God Who is celebrated in the Holy
Trinity, we salute and venerate the honorable images
of holy icons. Those who do not so hold, let them be
anathema. Those who reject these truths, let them
be separated from the Church. For we follow the
most ancient tradition and rules of the universal**

Church. We keep the laws of the Fathers. We denounce those who add anything to, or take anything away from, the One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. We honor the venerable images. We place under anathema those who do not do this. Anathema to them who presume to apply to the venerable images the things said in Holy Scripture about the veneration of idols! Anathema to those who refuse to venerate with proper reverence the holy images of our Lord and His blessed saints. Anathema to those who call the sacred images idols. Anathema to those who say that Christians resort to the sacred images as to gods. Anathema to those who say that any other delivered us from the idols except Christ our God. Anathema to those who dare to say that at any time the Holy Church received and worshiped idols.

So we all believe, and we are all of one mind, and we all have given our consent and have signed our names in agreement. This is the Faith of the Apostles! This is the Faith of the Fathers! This is the Faith of the Orthodox! This is the Faith that has established the universe!

PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all. Wisdom!

The Great Prokeimenon:

Who is so great a God as our God?
Thou art the God who does wonders!

CHOIR: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who does wonders!

PRIEST: You have made known Your power among the peoples!

CHOIR: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who does wonders!

PRIEST: And I said: "Now have I begun. This is the change of the right hand of the Most High!"

CHOIR: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who does wonders!

PRIEST: I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Your wonders!

CHOIR: Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God who does wonders!

PRIEST: Who is so great a God as our God?

CHOIR: Thou art the God who does wonders!

CHOIR: {Prayer of Saint Simeon, the Righteous Elder}

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 for revelation to the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

ALL:

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us! (*three times*)

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

PRIEST: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

{Penitential Troparia Hymns}

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos! Mary, full of grace . . .

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

O Baptizer of Christ remember us all . . .

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Intercede for us O holy Apostles and all the saints . . .

Beneath your compassion, we take refuge O Theotokos...

READER: Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond
compare more glorious than the Seraphim,
without defilement you gave birth to God the
Word! True Theotokos, we magnify you!

In the name of the Lord, bless Father!

PRIEST: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed
always now and ever, and unto ages of ages!

READER: Amen. O heavenly King, uphold . . .

PRIEST: {*The Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian*}

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit
of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk! (*a full
prostration is made*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience
and love to Your servant! (*a full prostration is made*)

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own
transgressions and not to judge my brothers and sisters,
for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*a full
prostration is made*)

(The entire prayer is recited once again, with a full prostration made at its
conclusion)

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our hope!
Glory to You!

CHOIR: 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. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

PRIEST: (*the final benediction and dismissal*)