

Vespers for St Arseny, Archbishop of Winnipeg

At *"Lord I have cried"* (Tone 6)

In poverty thou wast drawn forth from thy fatherland * to shepherd irrational sheep as did Amos of old, * but by grace thou wast made the father of rational sheep, * to labour in love of them for the sake of the Shepherd of All. * Let us therefore cry with gladsome voices: * O Christ Who dost care for the world, glory be to Thee!

Thou wast a tree of perfection and uprightness as wast Job the prophet of old, * one who feared God and from evil turned his face away. * Yet out of season wast thy fruit taken from thee, * that thou mightest seek true fruitfulness from the Eternal Husbandman. * With him, therefore, let us cry: the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, * blessed be the Name of the Lord.

In thy new homeland thou didst raise up the cross of Christ, * preparing the way of the Lord for those who would come after thee, * drawing into the sheepfold those who were strangers, * and enlightening by thy teaching those who sat in darkness. * Let us therefore glorify the Lord of All: * O Christ Who dost illumine the world, glory be to Thee!

As a friend of ascetics thou didst take up the monastic garment, * baptizing thy new homeland with the Light that enlighteneth all, * drawing together those who seek the angelic life, * those who sing to Christ as the angels on high. * Let us therefore cry before the Light that enlighteneth all: * O Christ Who art from all ages, glory be to Thee!

Thou didst willingly lay down thy life for the sake of the King, * and wast thrice drawn from the pits of death by the All-Merciful One. * Thou didst lay down kingly honours to take up the Cross of Christ, * bearing it as a weapon against the godless ones. * Let us therefore praise the Lord our God who arose from the dead: * O Christ Who dost raise all creation, glory to Thee!

Glory...

The Lord didst appoint thee an apostle to a nation of nations, * confused in spirit as tongues were confused in Babel of old. * Pray Christ our God send unto us the holy winds of Pentecost * to banish confusion, drawing all nations to the Uncreated Light, * that the Church in this land may be a seal of thine apostolate, * for doubtless thou art to us an apostle us who intercedeth for our souls.

Both now and ever...

Theotokion (Tone 2)

Who shall not praise thee, O Most Holy Virgin? * What nation shall not know the glory of thy mystical childbearing? * Shall strange lips not call thee blessed, O Most Holy Theotokos, * that all the earth might delight in the Incarnation of thy Son, * who is our God and Saviour, O Most Blessed One?

Prokeimenon of the day

Three Old Testament readings: 1 Samuel 3:2-10; Ruth 1:1-16; 1 Kings 18:20-39.

Aposticha (Tone 1)

How shall the nations call on Him in whom they have not believed? * How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? * Thou art the preacher called by the Lord to deliver his Gospel, * an angel in the flesh

bearing the Word to the nations! * O Christ Our God, the Word manifest in His saints, * glory be to Thee!

Verse: Their sound is gone forth unto all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.

In taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, * and like Christ didst bear the wounding of the world. *As Israel was scattered, and thereby didst bless the nations before the advent of the Saviour, * so too didst the Lord scatter the seeds of the Gospel through thee: * the seeds of the priesthood, which now blossom into priests for the world, * calling all the world to Christ and healing every worldly wound.

Verse: Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

The prophets of old confessed faith in one God; * the councils proclaimed the truth of the Trinity; * the martyrs bore witness to the Resurrection of Christ. * So too in the latter times dost thou give voice to the Faith of True Glory. * Holy Arseny, blessing of the Lord in our day, * pray to Christ for the salvation of our souls.

Glory...

The Light hath shined forth in the land of darkness, * and the darkness hath never encompassed It! * The seed of the Church hath borne fruit in a dry land, * the dry bones are renewed, and wild branches abide in the Vine again! * The Lord hath returned a wandering people to Zion, * and by the prayers of His saints doth grant countless wonders to all.

Both now and ever...

We have seen the Light that shone of old for the Prophet! *We have beheld the Child of Mary's birth-giving! * We have heard the voice of Him who spake forth on the mountain! *We have tasted of the fruit of Eden of old! * For Christ our God is wondrous in His saints * and hath shined forth even for us sinners His great and abundant mercy!

Troparia (Tone 1)

Let us the faithful glorify with gladsome voices * Arseny, shepherd of the Church and newly-revealed Chrysostom: * for by dying to this life he hath brought life to the flock, * and by laying down his life he hath enliven the Church of Christ. * Glory to Him Who hath glorified thee! * Glory to thy merciful teaching! * Glory to Him Who shineth forth the Gospel * in all times and all places through thee!

Kontakion (Tone 1)

What can we call him * who belongeth with every order of saint? * What can we name him who is shepherd, priest, confessor, teacher, and evangelist? * Who canst give words * to God's mercy, poured out in a new land? * O blessed father Arseny, pray that our souls may be saved!

This service has been composed by Reverend Father Geoffrey Korz of the All Saints of North America parish in Hamilton, ON, with the blessing of His Grace the Very Reverend Seraphim, Bishop of Ottawa and All Canada.