

The 17th Day of April

The Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop of Persia; and that of our Father among the Saints, Acacius, Bishop of Melitene.

Also, the commemoration of our Venerable Father Zosíma of the Solovétsky Monastery, whose service follows this. — incomplete as of 2/17/2016.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:

3 stichera to St. Simeon, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Today, the celebration of thy holy memory, /
O blessed Simeon, /
Shines forth upon the faithful more brightly than the sun /
Shedding the radiant splendor of God upon all creation, /
Chasing the gloom of passions and the darkness of demons away. /
Therefore, we bless and prayerfully praise thee, ///
As a fervent intercessor and a beacon of light for the world.

Wisely exchanging the goods of earth for those of heaven, /
Those things which perish for things imperishable, /
Thou didst gain eternal glory in place of that which fades away; /
And for the suffering which thou didst patiently endure for the Word of God /
Thou didst win the victor’s crown and the kingdom of heaven, /
Where, rejoicing now together with those who suffered with thee, ///
Pray for those who faithfully praise thee, O glorious martyr Simeon.

When the arrows of thy words pierced the ranks of the wicked, /
O martyr Simeon,
Then the clouds of heaven sent forth their voice /
And the choirs of angels marveled at thy bravery, rejoicing. ///
And we the faithful now celebrate thy falling asleep as we glorify the Savior.

And 3 stichera to St. Acacius, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

Note: If at Presanctified, these stichera are sung at the Praises of Matins.

As thy service as a hierarch was pleasing to God, O blessed one, /
Thou didst attain to the mansions of heaven; /
Thou dost behold the glory of the pre-eternal, never-waning light; /
Thou art clothed in holiness and righteousness and majesty, ///
And thou standest, face to face, before the beauty of Divinity.

O ven'rable father Acacius /
 Thy mind flew towards God on wings of faith /
 Leaving behind the cares and confusion of this world; /
 And taking up thy cross,
 Thou didst follow after Him Who knoweth all things /
 Taming thy unruly body to the wisdom of thy mind /
 Through thine ascetic deeds ///
 And through the power of the Divine Spirit.

O ven'rable father Acacius, /
 At the great Council, together with Cyril, thou didst condemn /
 Nestorius and his mindless wickedness, /
 And with spiritual words thou didst put him to shame. ///
 Therefore, we faithfully bless and celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

Save me, O most pure sovereign Lady, /
 Who ineffably bore Christ our Savior! /
 For I have thee as my invincible wall and protection; /
 O mediatrix, joy and divine consolation of my soul, /
 Thou alone can deliver me from the gnawing of the worm that never sleeps ///
 And from the eternal fire, O Mother of Christ God.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

Beholding Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /
 And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /
 The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Master, cried aloud: /
 “Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /
 How is it that Thou dost endure unjust wounding, /
 O Physician who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///
 And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?”

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The Troparion, in Tone 4: *(General for a Hieromartyr, none given in the Menaion)*

Like the apostles in character, /
 A successor on their throne, O divinely-inspired One /
 Through visions thou didst find thy work /
 Rightly dividing the word of truth. /
 Thou didst suffer for the sake of the faith /

HIEROMARTYR SIMEON OF PERSIA & VEN. ACACIUS OF MELITENE

Even to the shedding of thy blood ///

O Hieromartyr Basil, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.

(No Kontakion is given in the Menaion)

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