

The 8th Day of June

⦿ Translation of the Relics of the Holy Great Martyr Theodore Stratelatēs (the General)

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody: “When from the tree ...”*

Thou didst give thyself over completely to Him /
Who hath given thee perfect life, /
As a living and animate whole-burnt offering, /
A sacrifice most pure and well-pleasing to Christ. /
Therefore, hast thou become an ardent intercessor before Him /
Rescuing all from the tempests of life who praise thee with faith, ///
And call upon thee, O martyr Theodore.

Diligently didst thou cultivate the seed of the Word /
Which was sown in thy soul, /
And increased it through the pain of thy suffering; /
Wisely storing it in the granaries of heaven, /
Where thou dost now rejoice in the delights of incorruption, O blessèd one. ///
Through thy prayers before Christ, save those who sing thy praises with faith.

O greatmartyr and passion-bearer of Christ, /
Through thy prayers before the Lord, /
Save all who are in need and who are suffering great distress, /
Driving away from them every soul-destroying passion, /
And beseeching mercy and grace for us, /
That being saved by thy holy intercessions /
We may joyfully praise thine all-honorable suffering, ///
O holy greatmartyr Theodore!

And 3 stichera, in Tone 4: To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”

Thou hast been revealed by the Holy Spirit /
To be an invincible warrior and spiritual champ’ion /
Casting down the aggressor by the wisdom of thy words /
And the wise and patient working of thy deeds.
For these, thou hast received thy crown of victory ///
And have joined the choirs on high, O greatmartyr Theodore.

Thou wast a pillar of godly piety, /
O spiritually-rich martyr of Christ, /

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Detesting the temples of the impious, /
To which thou wast brought as a perfect lamb /
To be slain as a blameless sacrifice for His sake, /
Who hath glorified thy holy memory /
And bestowed thee as a treasury of miracles upon the world, ///
O greatmartyr Theodore!

Thou wast lifted high upon a cross, /
Thy flesh was torn and wounded with keen arrows; /
Yet being beset with pain by thy tormentor's skills /
Thou didst prove to be unbowed and invincible /
By the power of Him who was nailed to the Cross, ///
O Theodore, thou glory of all the martyrs!

Glory..., in Tone 5:

Today the honored memory of the passion-bearer of Christ /
Shines more brightly than the morning star, /
Invisibly illumining the hearts of the faithful /
And dispelling the clouds from their souls through the grace of the Spirit. /
Let us, who love the martyrs, cry aloud to him: /
O thou, who through divine grace hath been revealed to the faithful /
By the multitudes of miracles shed upon those who run to thee. /
O blessed greatmartyr Theodore, /
Ceaselessly beseech Christ the Lord, /
That those who honor thy holy memory with faith
May receive from Him eternal blessings!

**Now and ever... from the Pentecostarion, or the Day, or the Stavrotheotokion,
in the same Tone: To the melody, "Rejoice..."**

Seeing her Lamb being led to the slaughter, /
The ewe-lamb followed after Him, crying out: /
"Where dost Thou go, O Christ, my sweetest child? /
For whose sake, dost thou run this course so swiftly? /
O most desired Jesus, the only sinless and most merciful Lord, /
Grant me a moment that I might speak to Thee: /
O my compassionate and beloved Son /
Do not disdain in silence her who ineffably bore Thee, without seed, /
O longsuffering and all-bountiful God, ///
Who grants the world great mercy."

The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and:

Glory..., in Tone 8:

Come, all ye faithful, /
And let us rightly bless the great and noble martyr Theodore, /
The namesake of the gift of God and the heir of His blessedness, /
The great champ'ion of all the world, ///
For he ceaselessly prays to Christ on behalf of our souls.

Now and ever... Theotokion; or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody "O most glorious wonder..."*

"I cannot bear to look upon Thee, O my Child, /
Asleep in death upon the Tree, /
Who grantest life to all mankind, /
Imparting divine and saving life to those /
Who in ancient times fell into the sleep of perdition /
Through the fruit of transgression." /
Cried the weeping Virgin, whom we magnify.

The Troparion, in Tone 4:

Thou wast a valiant general in the army of the heavenly King /
And a militant defender of the truth. /
By wisely taking up the armor of faith /
Thou didst defeat the legions of demons becoming thyself a victorious martyr ///
O passion-bearing Theodore, we faithfully bless and honor thee.

Matins

The Canon

Both Canons from the Octoechos, without the Troparia for the martyrs; and the Canon of the Saint, with six Troparia

The Canon of the Saint, in Tone 4

having the acrostic: "With divine praises I hymn thee, the namesake of the gift of God" the composition of Theophanes— incomplete as of 5/16/2023

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 2: *To the melody, "Seeking the highest..."*

Vested in faith and with a courageous soul, /
And armed with the words of God as with a spear in thy hand /

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Thou didst defeat the enemy, O Theodore, thou glory of the martyrs, ///
With them, do not cease praying to Christ on behalf of us all.

Exapostilarion: Adorned with the beautiful stature of a mighty general and a glorious warrior among the martyrs, thou didst offer thyself to Christ and wast revealed to be a divine gift to the world, O greatmartyr Theodore.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion

By thy mighty protection, O pure Lady, preserve us all, thy servants unharmed from the attacks of the enemy; for we have thee as our only refuge in our time of need.

The Aposticha, from the Octoechos, and

Glory..., in Tone 8:

Having set for thyself a feat of prowess, /
Thou didst courageously fight against deceit, O Theodore, /
And with fiery eloquence thou didst put to shame the brutality of Lucinius. /
Therefore, rejoicing now with the angels, O blessèd martyr, ///
Beseech Christ God that He be merciful to us on Judgment Day.

Now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion, the Day, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody "O most glorious wonder..."*

"I cannot bear to look upon Thee, O my Child, /
Asleep in death upon the Tree, /
Who grantest life to all mankind, /
Imparting divine and saving life to those /
Who in ancient times fell into the sleep of perdition /
Through the fruit of transgression." /
Cried the weeping Virgin, whom we magnify.

RLE 5/17/2023 SDA