

The 23rd Day of May

Commemoration of our Venerable Father among the Saints, Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada; also, the Translation of the Precious Relics of our Father among the Saints, Bishop Leonty, Wonderworker of Rostov, whose service follows this. — *incomplete as of 5/2020.*

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera: 3 from the Pentecostarion and 3 stichera for the Saint, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O glorious wonder....”*

O blessed father Michael, /
Thou divinely-inspired fountain of blessings, /
Rightly wast thou granted the grace to behold /
The fulfillment of all desires and true blessedness. /
Now thou standest as a radiant hierarch before Christ, rejoicing in Him, ///
Whom all nature truly desires, O glorious one!

O blessed father Michael, /
Wearing thy priestly robes thou didst hasten to the tribunal of thy martyrdom, /
And wast led before Christ adorned with a hieromartyr's double crown. /
Truly, thou wast vouchsafed to partake of ineffable joy /
And now thou standest together with the martyrs and holy hierarchs, ///
O most wise and truly blessed one. /

O blessed father Michael, /
Bedewed with grace from above thou didst extinguish thy trial by fire /
And passing through it, presented thyself unharmed by its flames.
Thus, with great rejoicing thou wast joined to the hierarchs who went this way befere thee. /
Oh, the glorious and radiant pathway of thy passage! ///
And bright and glorious is thy repose in Christ, O blessed hierarch!

Note: But if this day should fall during the Apostles' Fast, and we will sing “Alleluia” at Matins instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stichera to the Theotokos ¹ are sung at Vespers, at “Lord I call,” before the above stichera of the hieromartyr, in the same Tone and melody:

Rejoice, enlightenment of our souls! /

¹ cf. May 29.

Rejoice, forgiveness of offences! /
 Rejoice, correction of slothfulness! /
 Rejoice, consolation and joy of all sorrows! /
 Rejoice, thou who art more holy than the seraphim! ///
 Rejoice, our fervent intercessor before God!

The pre-eternal God who received flesh from thy blood /
 Revealed thee, O pure one, as the intercessor for mankind. /
 Therefore, deliver us, thy servants
 From every evil, calamity, misfortune, and snare of the enemy /
 And vouchsafe that all who beseech and glorify thee ///
 May be partakers of the radiance of the chosen in heaven.

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.

Glory..., now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

Let us magnify thee, O Lady, Bride of God, /
 And glorify the depths of thy love for mankind, /
 With joyful songs of praise. /
 Save us from every misfortune /
 And rescue us from the soul-destroying darts of the enemy ///
 For we have thee as our invincible protectress, O Mother of Christ God.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

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 the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

Matins

The Canon of the Saint

Tone 1

Irmos: In days of old a mighty force sent the armies of Pharaoh into the deep sea; the Word Incarnate hath destroyed pernicious sin; the most glorious Lord hath been greatly glorified.

Refrain: Holy hierarch father Michael, pray to God for us!

Thou wast a holy hierarch of God, O wondrous father Michael, shining with the ineffable light of abstinence and bearing the royal robes of sanctity. Truly didst thou shepherd the Church of Christ, O all-blessèd one.

Preaching with words of Light, thou didst illumine all with the doctrines of theology, and denouncing the blasphemy of heresies, thou didst reveal thyself as a champion of piety, O blessèd father Michael.

As a vessel of divine gifts, O blessèd and most lauded Michael, thou didst distribute them all to the faithful, and having acquired a goodly life, thou wast vested in righteousness as if it were a robe.

Thou didst venerate with honor the sacred image of Christ and the Mother of God, to the end, O most holy father Michael, and didst cast down the blasphemies of the heretics, vanquishing them by thy words and by thy sufferings.

Theotokion: **O** Lady most pure, the glorious Lord, the Sun of righteousness shone forth from thy womb illumining us with His divine splendors and driving away the gloomy darkness of demons; and gloriously hath He been glorified!

Ode 3

Irmos: On the rock of faith Thou hast preserved me, against mine enemies Thou hast opened my mouth; my spirit hath rejoiced in singing: None is holy as our God, none is righteous save Thee, O Lord.

Thou didst attain that which is abiding and everlasting while living amidst the transitory things of this world, for thou wast not a part of it, but instead thou didst cry aloud: None is holy as our God, none is righteous save Thee, O Lord.

Thou didst receive the gifts of wisdom and divine grace poured from thy lips as thou didst cry aloud: None is holy as our God, none is righteous save Thee, O Lord.

Thou didst subdue the passions through abstinence illumining thy mind with visions divine, as in thy spirit, thou didst cry: None is holy as our God, none is righteous save Thee, O Lord.

Theotokion: **W**e praise the all-pure Mother of God, Mary, as our mediatrix who made manifest our salvation. Come, all ye, who are wise in God, and let us sing: None is

pure save thee, O immaculate Lady, none is more honorable than thee, O Theotokos.

The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”*

Having sanctified thyself with a perfect life /
 Thou didst become a true priest of God Most High, /
 And strengthened by Him, thou didst shut the mouths of heretics /
 Which screamed against the icon of Christ; ///
 And being persecuted, thou didst complete the course of thy life.

Glory..., now and ever..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion:

O pure Lady, Virgin Theotokos, /
 Intercessor and protectress of the faithful, /
 Deliver from calamity and sorrow, /
 And from violence those who put their trust in thee, ///
 And through thy supplications save our souls.

Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

As she stood by the Cross beholding Thee, /
 Stretched out, dead, upon the Cross, O Christ, /
 She cried out: O my Son, who art equally unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, /
 What is this ineffable dispensation /
 By which Thou hast saved the creation of Thine own hands, ///
 O only compassionate One?

Ode 4

***Irmos:** Thou hast come from a virgin not as a minister nor an angel, but as the Lord Himself incarnate; to me, a human, Thou hath brought salvation; so I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

Desiring to attain a crown of glory, thou didst lay aside the pleasures of the flesh, O initiate of the divine mysteries, and thou didst offer thy whole life to God as a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

Falling away from the path, the haters of the icons plunged into a pit of heresy and have become like strangers; but thou, O all-blessèd one, reproached them by venerating the image of Christ.

Thou hast received a rich reward for thy sufferings, O most honored father Michael, and art now dwelling with the heavenly hosts and rejoicing with the angels.

Thy tongue is like the pen of the Spirit, O glorious Michael, for thou teachest all to disregard the cares of the flesh, by the Word of the Almighty.

Resplendent in the glorious vestments of the priesthood and adorned with the glory of thy witness for Christ, thou art the glory of both angels and men.

Theotokion: **S**et my life aright, O Theotokos, and direct it by the precepts of the Word who was incarnate of thee, and guide it toward His light, O Virgin Mary, Mother and Bride of God.

Ode 5

Irmos: *O Savior Christ, Thou enlightenment of those who lie in darkness and the salvation of those in despair, rising early unto Thee, O King of the world, may I be enlightened by Thy radiance, for I know no other God than Thee.*

From thy youth thou didst offer thyself to the Word, O holy one, and as a divine offering, thou wast adorned with the gift of vision, and having harvested the fruit of wisdom, thou didst become a shepherd, O Michael, beloved of God.

The Word of God dwelt within thee, O divinely wise and blessed one, and abundantly poured forth rivers of doctrines and teachings which gladdened our hearts. Therefore, we rejoice in having thee as our merciful intercessor before our Creator and Fashioner, Christ God.

Perceiving thy serenity, He who adorned the beauty of all creation adorned thee with the myrrh of sanctity, O most wise priest of God.

Theotokion: **H**e, who before the ages shone forth timelessly from the Father yet deigned to be like us in all things, made His abode in thee, O most immaculate Mother of God, and He was born of thee as both Omnipotent God and man.

Ode 6

Irmos: *Compassed about in the depths of sin, I entreat the unfathomable depth of Thy compassion: bring me out of corruption, O Lord.*

Thou didst rightly receive thy crown of martyrdom from God, and art now arrayed in the salvific garment of divine gladness, O all-praised one.

Havin endured the torments of prison, O father Michael, richly wise in God, thou didst attain to the spacious place of paradise and art now rejoicing with the angels.

As a disciple of Christ God, O divinely-inspired father Michael, thou didst emulate His sufferings and valiantly accepted martyrdom for the sake of His Church.

Theotokion: **T**he prophets all proclaimed thine ineffable birthgiving, O all-pure Lady, for they spiritually foresaw the mystery of the dispensation of God.

The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 8: *To the melody "As the first-fruits"*

Thou didst suffer for the sake of piety, O holy hierarch, /

And being undaunted by the threats of the evil one thou didst vanquish his heresy /
By crying aloud: I venerate the icons of Christ and His all-pure Mother! ///
Therefore, we honor thee, O Michael, our ven'erable father.

Ode 7

Irmos: The profane command of a lawless tyrant made the flames to rise exceedingly, but Christ sent the dew of the Spirit to the godly youths; blessed is He and most glorious.

The ferocious beast could not bear the blessed sound of thy voice, O holy father Michael, and condemned thee to banishment in a distant land, but he was put to shame beholding thy strength, O sacred preacher.

The holy Church of Christ and the assemblies of the righteous are guided by thy teachings, O wise hierarch Michael, for thou wast an instrument sounded by the Spirit announcing to all the mighty works of God.

Wisely didst thou denounce the followers of the blasphemer Manés by openly preaching the veneration of the blessed icons of Christ, the Mother of God, and all the saints, O father Michael.

Theotokion: **T**hou art the beautiful vessel of the incarnation of the Word of God, O immaculate Virgin, for in His great loving-kindness, He took our fallen human nature wholly upon Himself through thee.

Ode 8

Irmos: God came down upon the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and changed the flames into dew. Praise the works of the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all ages.

Standing before the judgment seat, O Michael preacher of God, thou wast not afraid of the threats of the lawless judges, but cried out in a loud voice: I honor the icons of Christ the Savior and of all the saints!

With a steadfast spirit, O wise hierarch, thou didst contend with those who fought against God and thou wast victorious both in word and in deed, for it is right to honor the icons of Christ the Savior and of all the saints.

Knowing that the veneration shown to the holy icons passes to their prototype, as is taught in the divinely-inspired holy Scripture, O holy father, thou didst teach all to honor the icons of Christ and of all the saints.

Theotokion: **T**hou pourest forth streams of healing upon us, the faithful, O pure Lady, and drawing on their abundant grace, we praise thy Son and our God as we exalt Him throughout all ages.

Ode 9

Irmos: The Son of the eternal Father, God the Lord incarnate of the Virgin, hath appeared to us to give light

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to those in darkness and to gather those who had gone astray; so we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Standing before the great and divine Light, thou dost shine with boundless glory, O divinely-rich father Michael, for thou hast been given the grace to reach thy desired end, towards which thou didst earnestly and piously run, O truly wondrous one.

Thou hast been counted worthy to behold the radiance which passes beyond all understanding, O father, while living on the earth. Entreat Christ now, that He may deliver us, thy disciples who praise and honor thee, O truly wondrous one.

Strengthened by the brightness of divine grace and the searing heat of wisdom which thou didst acquire, thou didst engulf those who had the audacity to fight against God with the power of the Light, O truly wondrous one.

Theotokion: **T**hy womb was truly like the fleece that received the rain of heaven, for thou gavest birth for us to Him who bestowed immortality upon those who praise thee as the Most Holy Theotokos.

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