

The 3rd Day of December

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Zephaniah (Sophónias).

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Called from on high....”*

Thou didst receive the radiance of the light of God /
Through the purity of thy mind /
And didst become a herald of the words of God, /
O all-praised Zephaniah, /
Thou wast, indeed, the mouth of the Holy Spirit /
Proclaiming that which was shown to thee by Him, /
And revealing to all the nations the salvation of mankind and the kingdom of Christ. ///
Beseech Him now to save and enlighten our souls.

Illumined by the visions of God and prophetic contemplation, /
Thou wast inspired with grace and blessedness /
And honored with a chief place among all the prophets. /
Since thou art now possessed with mercy and with boldness before the
all-gracious Lord, /
Cease not to pray for those who in faith praise thee /
And honor thee as an eloquent and acceptable prophet pleasing to God ///
That He deliver us from all misfortunes and that He save our souls.

Thou hast shown Thy prophet Zephaniah, /
To be like a life-bearing cloud, O immortal Lord, /
Pouring forth the waters of eternal life, /
And in sending him forth, Thou hast richly endowed him with the All-holy Spirit /
Who is consubstantial with Thee, the Father Almighty /
And Thy Son who shone forth from Thine Essence; /
And through him Thou hast foretold the saving advent of Christ our God ///
And announced salvation to all the nations.

Note: *But if we sing “Alleluia” at Matins instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stichera to the Theotokos are sung at Vespers, at “Lord, I call,” before the above stichera of the Saint, in the same Tone and melody:*

Save us who piously venerate thy birthgiving /
From all the snares of the enemy, O all-chaste Mother of God, /
For we have acquired thee as our refuge and help, /
Our strength and intercession; /
Thou art the protectress of the human race /

Before Christ the Lord and Master. /
Beseech Him to grant peace to the world, we pray thee, ///
And remission of sins for us who hasten to thy protection.

Behold, I expose to thee the sores of my soul /
Brought down upon me by the tumultuous action of the demons /
And I show thee the terrible wounds /
Inflicted upon me by my wicked thoughts, /
But pour forth the oil of thy loving-kindness and thy goodness, O most pure Lady, /
Who gave birth to the Healer of men's souls and bodies, ///
And grant me healing for my health and the salvation of my soul.

I do not cover up my wicked deeds, /
For, wretch that I am, I have amassed those things hated by God: /
I have defiled my flesh, my spirit and mind /
By evil thoughts, words and deeds; /
With my tongue I condemn sinners, while I myself commit worse things. /
But grant me correction of all these, O Theotokos, /
That having rid myself of my evil ways /
I may fall down and weep before thee ///
Over what I have wickedly done in the course of my life.

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

Accursed, I have fallen into the depths of sin /
Because of my despair and laziness. /
Now I am held fast by misery and despondency. /
But do thou help me, cleanse me, and save me, /
Grant unto me thy merciful consolation, O pure one. /
I implore thee, take refuge, and fall down before thee, /
And with faith I cry out to thee: ///
Let not the deceiver gloat over me when the end is come.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

“Lament me not, O Mother, /
Seeing thy Son and God hanging on the tree, /
Who suspended the earth upon the waters /
And fashioned all creation. /
For I shall arise and be glorified, /
And shall crush the kingdom of Hades, /
Destroying all its power, /

HOLY PROPHET ZEPHANIAH (SOPHONIAS).

In that I am compassionate ///
And the Lover of mankind.”

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The Aposticha from the Octoechos.

The General Troparion of the Prophet, in Tone 2:

We célebrate today the memory /
Of Thy prophet Zephaniah; /
Through him, we implore Thee, O Lord, /
To save our souls.

Matins

— incomplete as of 11/9/17

Kontakion for the Prophet, in Tone 4:

Thou wast manifested by the Holy Spirit /
As one resplendent with bright rays of light /
For thou didst proclaim the Theophany of God, O prophet Zephaniah /
Having preached “Rejoice greatly, O daughters of Sion and Jerusalem; ///
For behold, your King comes to save you!”

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