

The 22nd Day of April

Commemoration of our Father Among the Saints, Theodore of Sykeon, Bishop of Anastasiopolis.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 5: *To the melody, “O venerable father....”*

O ven'rable father Theodore, /
Consecrated to God from thy mother's womb /
Thou wast known to God like Jeremiah of old. /
Thy birth was heralded by a star in heaven; /
And the splendor of thy life truly illuminates the world /
Chasing away the darkness of the demons; /
Infirmities are driven away from all people /
And the grace of healing pours forth on all mankind. /
Therefore, we all cry aloud to thee: ///
Entreat Christ that He grant the world great mercy.

O ven'rable and wondrous father Theodore, /
Having consumed the tinder of sin with great abstinence and the fire of prayer, /
Thou didst receive illumination divine; /
And didst cause the grace of the Trinity to abide in thee /
Becoming radiant and emitting rays of healing, /
Like Elisha of old, thou didst behold the things that were to come; /
Thou didst loose the bonds of barrenness, /
And chase the hordes of demons away by the power of the Holy Spirit ///
Beseeching Him that He grant peace to the world and great mercy.

O ven'rable and all-honorable father Theodore, /
Thou sun shining upon the world thy countless signs and miracles, /
Thou precious gift presented to Christ our God; /
O excellent example of the holy priesthood, /
And worthy model of monastics, /
Confirmation of those who appeal to thee with faith; /
O precious gemstone, and abode of the Holy Trinity,
And vessel pouring forth an endless stream of healings, ///
Ceaselessly pray to Christ that He grant peace to the world and great mercy.

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

To whom hast thou likened thyself, O my soul? /
Why dost thou run after the most terrible of things, /

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Mindlessly adding painful lashes to thine already festering wounds? /
With no heed to what will become with the rest of thee, /
Nor that the Judge is already approaching. /
Before whom, thou shalt stand and receive the just reward of thy deeds. /
But turn back, and fall down before the Virgin crying out: /
Do not despise me, O Lady! /
For I have angered the just and merciful God who was born of thee ///
And was crucified in the flesh for our salvation.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

When she beheld suspended on the Tree /
The unplanted Cluster of grapes, Which had put forth from within her womb, /
His divine side pierced by a spear,
The all pure one cried aloud saying: /
“What is this, O my Son and God? /
How is it that Thou acceptest suffering, /
Who hast healed all infirmities and passions, /
Being in Thy divinity dispassionate by nature? /
What have these ungrateful people done to Thee,
Their Benefactor, for all the good Thou hast done to them?” /
But pray thou unceasingly, O Lady ///
That He deliver me from my passions by His sufferings, that I may glorify thee.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 2:

Known to be sanctified while still in swaddling clothes /
Thou wast filled with the grace of God, /
Thou didst illumine the world with the light of thy miracles /
Driving the hordes of demons away. ///
O Theodore, thou minister of the sacred mysteries, /
Pray to the Lord on behalf of us all.

Matins

The Canon of the Holy Hierarch, in Tone 4

*The composition of Joseph.
—incomplete as of 3/2016*

The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 3: Special melody, “Today the Virgin”

By thy great virtues, O bearer of God, /
Thou didst ascend to the heavenly mansions as by a fiery chariot; /

THEODORE OF SYKEON, BISHOP OF ANASTASIOPOLIS

Thou didst live among men like an angel /
And though being a man, thou dost now rejoice with them ///
Since, O Theodore, thou wast revealed to be a vessel of miracles.

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