

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Day of July

### Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina.

#### Vespers

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

**W**hen the chief of the disciples traveled the world strengthening all, /  
He discovered thee, O father, as a precious stone /  
And installed thee as one of the foundations of the Church, /  
To destroy the pillars and the temples of idolatry ///  
By the divine power of the Word who condescended for our sake to become incarnate.

**D**riving away the wickedness of evil spirits by thy words /  
Thou didst make men spiritual by the grace of the Spirit, /  
Cultivating the field of their hearts and planting the divine seed. /  
By these deeds thou didst attain to heaven, O Pancratius, ///  
Praying for those who with faith glorify thee.

**T**hou didst bear, O Pancratius, the Sun of the knowledge of God /  
Who ineffably shone forth upon us from the Virgin’s womb, /  
And the western sky was lit, following thy steps, with the rising glory of the East, /  
And when it was darkened by thy suffering, O father, thou didst shine in the glory of  
the never-waning Light /  
And now, as though having passed through a looking glass, ///  
Thou dost behold the Inspiration of thine accomplishments.

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

**T**hou alone didst bear within thy womb /  
The uncontainable God without confining Him, /  
Who in His goodness became a man. /  
Therefore, I beseech thee, O All-holy Bride of God, /  
Set me free of the passions which confine me ///  
That walking the straight and narrow path I may reach that which leads to Life, O  
Lady.

**Or this Stavrotheotokion in the same Tone: *(and melody)***

**B**eholding thee nailed to the wood of the Cross, O Jesus /  
She who know not wedlock cried out weeping: /  
“O sweet Child, Thou Unapproachable Light of the All-unoriginate Father, /  
Why hast Thou left me alone, who gave birth to Thee?”

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But hasten Thou and glorify Thyself ///  
That they who glorify Thy divine sufferings may receive divine glory!”

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.*

**The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

**L**ike 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 /  
Even to the shedding of thy blood ///  
O hieromartyr Pancratius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.

**Matins**

**The Canon of the Saint, in Tone 1**

— *incomplete as of 3/17*

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

**T**hou didst shine like a brilliant star for the people of Taormina /  
And thou didst suffer for the sake of Christ. ///  
Standing now before Him, pray for them that honor thee, O blessèd Pancratius.

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