

The 30th Day of May

Commemoration of our Venerable Father Isaac the Confessor,
Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery in Constantinople.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera: 3 from the Octoechos and

3 stichera of the Saint, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Beholding the beauties of paradise /

And delighting in its flowers of incorruption, /

Thou didst show to the world the true understanding of God /

With whom thou didst commune, O yen’rable one, ///

And increased the number of souls turning to God with spiritual love.

Guarding thy body with the power or abstinence, /

Thou didst tame the passions through vigils and prayer. /

Therefore, thou wast covered with the power of the Spirit ///

And wast revealed as a spiritual beacon shining to the universe.

Thou didst exemplify the monastic life, O father Isaac, /

And like the sun, shone upon the Great City from the wilderness, /

Thus teaching and enlightening the faithful ///

To bless the Father, and the Son, and the consubstantial Spirit.

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 Theotokos¹ are sung at Vespers, at “Lord I call,” before the above stichera of the Saint, in the same Tone and melody:

We who are hopelessly possessed by sins, O pure one, /

Have thee alone as our intercessor, O Virgin. /

And we gratefully cry out to thee: /

Cleanse us, O most holy bride of God. /

For thou art the refuge of the world ///

And the defender of the race of mankind.

Armed with the staff of thy protection, O most pure Mother of God, /

Drive away the beastly passions of mine accursèd soul; /

And direct my life in peace ///

And number me among thy chosen flock of sheep.

¹ cf. May 31.

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Tossed about by the storm of my sins, /
I flee to the calm haven of thy prayers, O Mother of God, /
And I cry ot to thee: /
Stretch out thy mighty right hand to me, thy servant, ///
And save me, O most pure one!

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

I am laid low and lie in the filth of my vices, /
Yet I crawl to thy peaceful refuge, O Virgin! /
Deliver me from the storms of passion and from every temptation /
That I may ever extol thy grace ///
O Ever-virgin Mother of God.

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

Standing before the Cross of thy Son and God, /
And beholding His long-suffering, /
O pure Mother, thou didst cry out weeping: /
Woe is me, O my Child most sweet! /
What are these things which Thou dost suffer unjustly, ///
O Word of God, that Thou mightest save mankind?

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

Matins

The Canon of the saint

Tone 8

Irmos: Thou didst deliver Israel from bondage with Thy mighty right hand, O Lord; and as Thou didst save them, save us now.

Refrain: Venerable father Isaac, pray to God for us!

Returning from the wilderness, O venerable and holy father, thou didst confirm the Faith of Christ and scattered the assembly of the heretics.

Desiring to protect the Church, like the prophet Nathan standing before King David, thou didst boldly confront the King.

Thrown into prison by the vain malefactor, thou didst shine forth like a lustrous pearl shining with the splendor of the Spirit, O glorious one.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ISAAC, FOUNDER OF
THE DALMATIAN MONASTERY

Theotokion: Thou didst conceive the Timeless Son who was begotten of the Father, and gave birth to Him as a babe, O all-pure and immaculate Virgin.

Ode 3

Irmos: O Thou who established the heavens by Thy word, establish our minds and hearts that we may praise and glorify Thee for the salvation of our souls.

Thou wast like a spiritual trumpet summoning us all to wage battle against the hordes of the enemy with the help of Christ the Savior.

Thou art truly a spiritual ladder leading up to the kingdom on high, and those who step upon it with faith are made steadfast in the spirit by thy teachings.

By the love of the Master, thou wast shown to be an unwavering stronghold of the doctrines, gathering into the bosom of the Church all who seek to practice the virtues, O God bearing father Isaac.

Theotokion: **T**hou art truly a mother, O Virgin, for thou hast given birth to God the Word, Emmanuel. Beseech thou Him, O Bride who knew no wedlock, O blessed and most pure Theotokos.

The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "Of Wisdom...."*

As a shower-laden cloud of the Spirit /
Watering the hearts of the faithful here on earth /
O God bearing father Isaac, /
Thy divine teachings have fallen like rain on all the ends of the earth; /
And the sweet fragrance of thy doctrines rises in the hearts of the faithful /
And we pray thee to beseech Christ our God ///
That He may grant remission of sins to all who lovingly honor thy precious memory.

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

As the pure bride of the Creator, /
And the Mother of the Savior, /
As one who knew not wedlock: /
The all-praised receptacle of the essence of the Comforter, /
Hasten to deliver me who has become the abode of evil, /
The plaything of demons and their evil spite; /
And make me the bright dwelling place of virtues, /
O radiant and incorruptible one! /
Drive away the clouds of my passions, ///
And through thy prayers, make me worthy to partake of the things of heaven.

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

When she beheld the Lamb, /
 The Shepherd and Deliverer stretched out upon the Cross, /
 With maternal tears the Ewe-lamb cried aloud: /
 “The world rejoiceth for it hath received deliverance though Thee, /
 Yet my womb burns at the sight of Thy crucifixion, /
 Which Thou dost endure in Thy compassion and mercy. /
 O longsuffering Lord, and infinite source of mercy, /
 Have pity and grant the remission of sins ///
 To those who faithfully praise Thy divine suffering.”

Ode 4

Irmos: I have heard the report of Thy power and my heart has rejoiced in the Lord.

On earth thou didst live the life of an angel, and now thou dost rejoice with in heaven with the angelic hosts.

Having first been a leader of monastics in the wilderness, now thou dost provide an example for them in the city, O divinely-wise and glorious one.

Thy memory truly gladdens the hearts of those who praise thee, O holy father Isaac.

Theotokion: **O** Theotokos, now as ever by thy prayers, free us thy servants, from the bondage of the evil one.

Ode 5

Irmos: O Lord who with divine wisdom hast brought the ends of the earth out of the night of darkness into the Light, enlighten Thou me with the dawn of Thy love for mankind.

Thou didst truly shine from the wilderness like a radiant star, driving away the darkness of heresy by thy divine teachings.

Holding the bridle of the evil emperor’s steed, O Isaac the all-praised, thou didst denounce his beastly understanding, openly putting him to shame.

Thou wast beaten upon the head with a staff, O father, spiritually defending thy faith in Christ God as the head of the Church.

Theotokion: **O** most lauded Virgin, who art higher in honor than the Cherubim, entreat thy Son that He may save the souls of those who praise thee.

Ode 6

Irmos: Grant me a robe of light, O Thou who clothes Thyself with light as with a garment, O greatly merciful Christ our God.

Through the Spirit, thou wast able to foretell the ignoble death of the vile emperor, O

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ISAAC, FOUNDER OF
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wise one, revealing thyself as a glorious prophet divine.

Like wheat, thou didst winnow the faithful, gathering them together on the harvest floor, O wise father Isaac, and by thy prayers, thou didst destroy the evil emperor's vanity like chaff.

Thou didst polish the hearts of the faithful who listened to thee into true tablets of the Law, O divinely-wise father Isaac, engraving upon them the seal of Orthodoxy.

Theotokion: **A**t the Archangel's word, thou didst bear the Word in the flesh, O Lady! And we pray thee: Deliver our souls from the snares of the enemy!

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

Burning with zeal as a faithful favorite of Christ /
Thou didst bridle the evil Emperor with thy words of prophecy /
And foretold to all the liberation of the Church from his captivity. ///
Therefore, O venerable and holy father Isaac, we beseech thee to pray for us who
with faith and love honor thee.

Ode 7

Irmos: O Lord God who in the beginning founded the earth and established the heavens by Thy word, blessed art Thou forever!

O Lord God of our fathers, who granted thy venerable one the words to chastise the tyrant for his wickedness, blessed art Thou forever!

Dwelling now in the glorious and splendid mansions of the righteous, O father Isaac, thou dost cry aloud to the Creator: Blessed art Thou forever, O Lord God of our fathers!

O most honored father Isaac, never cease thou to entreat the Savior on our behalf, so that thy flock may be delivered from every misfortune and may receive life everlasting.

Theotokion: **O** Lord God of our fathers, who dwelt within the Virgin's womb, and by her didst restore Adam, blessed art Thou forever!

Ode 8

Irmos: The unoriginate King of glory, before whom the hosts of heaven tremble, Him, do ye praise, O priests; and Him, do ye people exalt throughout all ages!

Him, who showed His favorite Isaac to be the champion of the Orthodox faith, do ye praise, O priests: and Him, do ye people exalt throughout all ages!

Thou didst come out of the wilderness as a spiritual lamb, driving before thee the

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wild beasts away from the flock of Christ, expelling them to dwell in the empty spaces of darkness.

In the meekness of thy spirit thou wast not deterred by the cruel and wicked wrath of the evil Emperor, O father, for the Spirit of Truth was working within thee.

Theotokion: **A**s it was written, the Stone of Life was cut from within thee without the aid of man's hands, O all-holy and most pure Lady, by God whose good pleasure I was to dwell in thee.

Ode 9

Irmos: *We magnify thee with hymns of praise, O Lady Theotokos, the Mother of the Light.*

Thou didst mightily crush the powers of the ungodly with the strength of the Divine Spirit.

Thou didst bind the horde of heretics with the bonds of Faith.

O holy and divinely-wise father Isaac, never cease to pray that God be mindful of our salvation.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin Lady, by thy divine Birthgiving Eden, which had fallen into grief, was transformed and born again.

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