

The 5th Day of September

Ⲭ Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, Parents of the Forerunner.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Anointed with chrism and adorned in the vestments of priesthood /
Thou didst serve God as one of His angels /
Mediating between the Creator and us, His creatures, /
For clearly, thou didst hear the words of the divine Spirit. /
Therefore, we call thee bless’t, O Zachariah, /
As we celebrate today thy holy feast and glorify the Savior. (twice)

O divinely-inspired Zachariah, /
Thou didst foresee how the unoriginate Son of the Father /
Was to be born of the Young Maiden, /
And to thine own son thou didst plainly prophecy: /
“Truly thou wilt be a prophet preparing His ways!” /
With him, we call thee bless’t, as today we celebrate ///
Thy most precious and holy feast, O God-bearing Zachariah. (twice)

Thou wast a living and inspired temple of the Holy Spirit /
Who served God in His temple with a pure heart /
And thou wast unjustly slain, completing thy divine course in martyrdom, /
O right glorious Zachariah. /
Therefore, through thine own blood hast thou entered into the temple in heaven, ///
Entreating God to cleanse our souls. (twice)

Glory..., in Tone 8: *In the regular melody. The composition of the Monk, John.*

Robed in the vestments of the priest of the Law, /
Thou didst serve according to the order of Aaron, /
And standing in the temple thou didst clearly behold the vision of the angel. /
Therefore, we rightly commemorate thy repose, O Zachariah, /
And we praise thee, who, in thine old age begat the Forerunner, John. ///
And entreat thee to beseech God that He may save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

“What is this sight that I see, /
What do mine eyes behold, O Master? /

Thou, Who sustainest all creation, lifted up on the Tree, /
Dost die granting life to all,” /
Cried the Theotokos, weeping, when she beheld upon the Cross ///
The God-man Who had ineffably shone forth from her.

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

The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, and:

Glory..., in Tone 2: *(the composition of Anatolius)*

Thou didst enter the Holy of Holies in purity as a priest, /
And robed in thy vestments, thou didst minister to God with a blameless heart, /
Observing the laws of Aaron /
And, like Moses, leading the tribes of Israel, with bells of gold. /
Thus wast thou slain; and thy righteous blood is like a saving ointment for us /
For like sweet-smelling myrrh, it opened the pathways of hearing for us /
And put us onto the road toward eternal life, /
O thrice-blessèd Zachariah, husband of Elizabeth and father of John the Baptist, ///
Fervently pray for the salvation of our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody “When from the tree....”*

Beholding Thee, her Lamb being voluntarily led to the slaughter /
The chaste ewe-lamb wept and cried aloud: /
“What dost thou do, striving to make me childless, O Christ, /
Who gave birth to Thee, the Deliverer of all? /
Yet I glorify Thine ineffable grace past all understanding, O Lover of mankind.

The Troparion of the Prophet Zachariah, in Tone 4:

Robed in the garments of the priesthood, O truly wise one, /
Thou didst offer whole-burnt offerings to God in accordance with the Law, /
And thou didst become a shining light and beholder of the Mysteries /
Bearing within thyself the signs of grace, O all-wise one. /
Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ, ///
Intercede together with the Forerunner, John, ///
That our souls may be saved.

Matins

Incomplete as of 8/2020

The Canon

Both Canons from the Octoechos (not including that of the martyrs),

PROPHET ZACHARIAH & RIGHTEOUS ELIZABETH

and this one of the Saints (the composition of Theophanes), in Tone 1.
— *incomplete as of 8/2020.*

The Kontakion, in Tone 3:

Today the prophet Zachariah /
Priest of the Most High and the father of the Forerunner, John, /
Hast prepared a banquet on behalf of the faithful /
Mixing for us a draught of righteousness. ///
So we praise him as a divine innitiate of the grace of God.

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